

COALITION TO
STOP OPIOID
OVERDOSE

April 11, 2017

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
S-128, The Capitol
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-305, The Capitol
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
S-128, The Capitol
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Cochran, Senator Leahy, Chairman Frelinghuysen and Congresswoman Lowey:

The members of the Coalition to Stop Opioid Overdose are grateful for the considerable attention and resources that Congress has dedicated to addressing the opioid misuse and overdose epidemic thus far, but there is more work to do as the death toll continues to climb. This work requires additional, dedicated federal resources to fund prevention efforts, treatment and recovery support services, and overdose reversal programs. Accordingly, we respectfully request full funding for the *Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act* (CARA) in the Fiscal Year 2017 and 2018 appropriations bills, and we ask that at least the \$500 million included as part the *21st Century Cures Act* to expand access to critical prevention, treatment and recovery support services be appropriated in Fiscal Year 2018.

The Coalition to Stop Opioid Overdose is a coalition of diverse stakeholders representing health care and social service professionals and advocates united around common policy goals that will lead to meaningful and comprehensive policies to reduce opioid overdose deaths.

We support a comprehensive approach to addressing the opioid misuse and overdose epidemic, which must include full funding for programs to prevent or reverse overdoses, develop best prescribing practices, modernize prescription drug monitoring programs, and expand access to treatment and vital recovery support services. Full funding of CARA in Fiscal Years 2017 and 2018, and appropriation of the \$500 million from the Cures-established Account for the State Response to the Opioid Abuse Crisis in Fiscal Year 2018, will make a significant impact on individuals, families and communities amid the opioid misuse and overdose epidemic. These funds are critical to addressing a crisis which is taking 120 American lives every day.

Thank you again for your leadership and attention to this matter. We pledge to continue working with Congress and the Administration to end this epidemic and hope that we can serve as a resource to you and your staff.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Correctional Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Society of Addiction Medicine
Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness
Central City Concern
CleanSlate
Facing Addiction
HIV Medicine Association
International Nurses Society on Addictions (IntNSA)
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Safety Council
Treatment Communities of America
Valley Hope
Young People in Recovery

CC

The Honorable Roy Blunt
The Honorable Patty Murray
The Honorable Tom Cole
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro