



April 5, 2018

The Honorable Steve Stivers
1022 Longworth House Office Building
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Eliot Engel
2462 Rayburn House Office Building
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Reinforcing Evidence-Based Standards Under Law in Treating Substance Abuse Act of 2018

Dear Congressman Stivers and Congressman Engel:

The undersigned mental health, substance use disorder, and health care professional organizations in the Coalition to Stop Opioid Overdose are writing today to express our support for your bill, the *Reinforcing Evidence-Based Standards Under Law in Treating Substance Abuse Act of 2018* (RESULTS Act) (H.R. 5272). The Coalition to Stop Opioid Overdose (CSOO) is a coalition of diverse organizations 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 through prevention, treatment, and recovery support services.

Foremost to CSOO's mission is increasing access to high-quality prevention and addiction treatment services by ensuring funds are used to support evidence-based programs and activities to prevent or treat a mental health or substance use disorder. As we know too well, the morbidity and mortality statistics related to addiction, and in particular addiction involving opioid use, are astounding. Overdose deaths involving pharmaceutical opioids were five times higher in 2016 than 1999, and sales of these drugs have quadrupled.ⁱ Drug overdoses are the current leading cause of accidental death in the U.S., with more than 63,600 lethal drug overdoses in 2016.ⁱⁱ

Given the devastation of the opioid misuse and overdose epidemic plaguing this country, it is crucial to implement smart policies to address this epidemic. As a result, the undersigned members of CSOO appreciate and support the RESULTS Act and its goal to ensure individuals with mental health or substance use disorders receive the best possible evidence-based care. We also support your inclusion of a waiver mechanism for new or innovative treatments that may offer promise but have not established a full evidence base. Finally, we respectfully suggest that the name of the legislation be changed to the *Reinforcing Evidence-Based Standards Under Law in Treating Substance Use Disorders Act of 2018* to reflect less stigmatizing terminology.

COALITION TO
STOP OPIOID
OVERDOSE

Thank you for your leadership in introducing this groundbreaking legislation, and we look forward to working with you to secure its passage.

Sincerely,

Academy of Integrative Pain Management
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians
American Psychological Association
American Society of Addiction Medicine
Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness
Facing Addiction with NCADD
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
National Safety Council
Shatterproof
The Kennedy Forum
Young People in Recovery

ⁱ Hedegaard H, Warner M, Miniño AM. Drug overdose deaths in the United States, 1999–2016. NCHS Data Brief, no 294. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2017/ CDC. Wide-ranging online data for epidemiologic research (WONDER). Atlanta, GA: CDC, National Center for Health Statistics; 2016. Available at <http://wonder.cdc.gov>

ⁱⁱ Hedegaard H, Warner M, Miniño AM. Drug overdose deaths in the United States, 1999–2016. NCHS Data Brief, no 294. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2017.