

November 28, 2016

United States Congress  
United States Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

To the Members of the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives:

As the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress comes to a close and opportunities are emerging to introduce new funding, the undersigned organizations respectfully urge you to consider the urgent and growing need to effectively address the opioid epidemic in our country.

Significant funding is needed to ensure evidence-based approaches to prevention, treatment, and recovery strategies are available to the many Americans who so desperately need them. The wide-ranging and devastating impact of this true public health emergency on individuals, families, and our communities demonstrates the pressing need for this critical funding.

Public awareness of the opioid crisis has grown significantly in recent months as its effects continue to be felt by more and more of our nation's residents. Importantly, this greater awareness also highlights shifting attitudes in how we as a society view addiction and substance use disorders, treating them as the diseases they are rather than as moral failings or weaknesses. As noted in the U.S. Surgeon General's recent report on addiction<sup>1</sup>, adopting an evidence-based approach to prevention, treatment, and recovery is essential in addressing substance use disorders, as it would be with other health conditions.

We therefore urge you to provide the maximum possible allocation to fund not only the grant programs designated under the bipartisan Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) passed earlier this year, but to also substantially increase funding for much-needed prevention and treatment efforts for opioid misuse and related disorders.

As legislators, you have heard the personal experiences of your constituents whose lives have been affected by the opioid epidemic. You have shared these experiences in committee hearings, on the floor of the House of Representatives and the Senate, in town halls in your communities, and in countless other meetings, and you have taken action to help improve programs that support efforts to address this public health crisis. We deeply appreciate your work, and as providers we strongly urge Congress to ensure that existing and newly-created programs have the necessary resources to meet the needs of patients and families struggling with opioid use disorders.

Thank you again for your bipartisan work to date to help fight this disease. With this final opportunity before the end of the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress, we encourage you to provide the maximum possible funding for prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts, and we stand ready to support you in this vital effort.

Sincerely,

American Osteopathic Association  
AANS/CNS Joint Section on Pain  
American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Neurology  
American Academy of Osteopathy  
American Academy of Pain Medicine

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<sup>1</sup> <https://addiction.surgeongeneral.gov/surgeon-generals-report.pdf>

American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons  
American College of Emergency Physicians  
American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine  
American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians  
American College of Osteopathic Internists  
American College of Osteopathic Neurologists and Psychiatrists  
American College of Osteopathic Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians  
American College of Physicians  
American College of Rheumatology  
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American Dental Association  
American Dental Education Association (ADEA)  
American Gastroenterological Association  
American Medical Association  
American Nurses Association  
American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics  
American Osteopathic Academy of Sports Medicine  
American Osteopathic College of Anesthesiologists  
American Osteopathic College of Radiology  
American Pharmacists Association  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Society of Addiction Medicine  
American Society of Anesthesiologists  
American Society of Interventional Pain Physicians  
Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association  
Arkansas Osteopathic Medical Association  
Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness  
Association of Recovery Community Organizations  
California Medical Association  
College on Problems of Drug Dependence  
Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons  
Connecticut Osteopathic Medical Society  
Delaware Chapter of the National Alliance for Medication Assisted Recovery  
Faces & Voices of Recovery  
Florida Osteopathic Medical Association  
Friends Research Institute  
Harm Reduction Coalition  
Idaho Osteopathic Physicians Association  
Indiana Osteopathic Association  
Iowa Osteopathic Medical Association  
Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine  
Kentucky Osteopathic Medical Association  
Louisiana Osteopathic Medical Association  
Maine Osteopathic Association  
Massachusetts Medical Society  
Massachusetts Osteopathic Society  
Michigan Chapter of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians

Michigan Osteopathic Association  
Minnesota Osteopathic Medical Society  
Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons  
Missouri Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians  
NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals  
National Alliance for Medication Assisted Recovery  
National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors  
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health  
National Association of Spine Specialists  
National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors  
New Mexico Osteopathic Medical Association  
New York State Osteopathic Medical Society  
North American Spine Society  
Ohio Osteopathic Association  
Ohio State Medical Association  
Ohio State Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians  
Oklahoma Osteopathic Association  
Oregon Medical Association  
Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons of California  
Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons of Oregon  
Recovery Communities of North Carolina  
Rhode Island Society of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons  
South Dakota Osteopathic Association  
South Florida Chapter of the National Alliance for Medication Assisted Recovery  
Texas Osteopathic Medical Association  
The Methadone Advocacy Group of Indiana  
Treatment Communities of America  
Washington Osteopathic Medical Association  
West Virginia Osteopathic Medical Association  
Wisconsin Association of Osteopathic Physician & Surgeons