September 11, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
The Capitol, S-230
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
The Capitol, S-221
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer:

We the undersigned, representing the major groups across all disciplines working on a comprehensive response to address the drug crisis facing our country, write to urge the Senate to act quickly, and without delay, on the passage of meaningful, bipartisan legislation that would help curb the ever worsening opioid crisis and ultimately save lives.

As you know, the opioid crisis is an urgent matter. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 63,600 Americans died of a drug overdose in 2016, representing a staggering 21 percent increase over 2015. Each day we lose 174 people to drug overdoses - which is equivalent to a plane crash each day in our country.

We applaud the House for their leadership in passing the historic Substance Use Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment (SUPPORT) for Patients and Communities Act (H.R. 6). This legislation includes more than fifty different proposals that will help save lives by strengthening areas of prevention, treatment, recovery, overdose reversal, research, law enforcement, veterans, and child welfare, and other key aspects of a comprehensive response needed to address the drug crisis.

As attention turns to the Senate, we ask for the quick passage of complementary legislation to be made a priority in order to improve our country’s ability to implement a comprehensive response and to help communities nationwide better treat and prevent addiction and save lives. It is meaningful, bipartisan legislation that follows the science, and is supported by patients, families and key stakeholders that will make a difference.

We strongly support for the following legislation to be included in the Senate’s opioid package:

- **Opioid Crisis Response Act (OCRA) of 2018 (S. 2680):** Authored by Senators Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Patty Murray (D-WA), this legislation would, among other issues, improve first responders ability to assist individuals who have overdosed; expand support services to help patients achieve long-term recovery; provide resources to operate substance use disorder (SUD) treatment and recovery centers; educate doctors on how to prevent, detect, and treat SUD; and expand the use of technology services for the treatment of additional SUD patients.
• **Substance Abuse Prevention Act of 2018 (S. 2789):** Authored by Senators John Cornyn (R-TX) and Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), this legislation would reauthorize crucial substance use prevention programs and provides assistance to federal agencies to better address our nation’s drug crisis. Specifically, this legislation would, among other issues, reauthorize the Office of National Drug Control Policy at the White House, which includes the Drug Free Communities and High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area programs; reauthorizes the Department of Justice funding for drug courts; improves collaboration between Drug Enforcement Administration and healthcare and community organizations working on the front lines of the drug crisis; and provides resources to protect families with SUD parents.

• **SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act (H.R. 6):** Introduced by Representatives Greg Walden (R-OR), Kevin Brady (R-TX), Frank Pallone (D-NJ), and Richard Neal (D-MA), this legislation includes more than fifty different proposals that address and improves resources in areas of prevention, treatment, recovery, overdose reversal, research, law enforcement, veterans, and child welfare, and other key aspects of a comprehensive response needed to address the drug crisis.

We understand the Senate has a tight legislative schedule this summer and fall and are working hard to bring about many important reforms, but we ask the Senate to make the passage of this legislation a top priority so we can quickly move to conference with the House of Representatives and ultimately send a package to the President’s desk to signed into law.

The undersigned signatories believe that these bipartisan proposals contain many critical components that will have an immediate and positive impact in states and communities nationwide to better address the opioid crisis in a meaningful way. We respectfully request the swift passage of this legislation, and are available to assist you in your efforts.

Sincerely,

1. A New PATH
2. Addiction Haven
3. Addiction Policy Forum
4. Addiction Recovery Communities of California
5. Advocates for Recovery Colorado
6. Alabama Addiction Policy Forum
7. Alliance for Addiction and Mental Health Services
8. American Psychological Association
9. Apricity
10. Arizona Addiction Policy Forum
11. Aspen Counseling and Consulting
12. Association of Persons Affected by Addiction (APAA)
13. Association of Prosecuting Attorneys
14. Association of Recovery Community Organizations
16. Berger Health Foundation
17. Beyond Addiction Recovery & Family Support Group
18. California Addiction Policy Forum
19. California Narcotic Officers Organization
20. Capital Area Project VOX
21. Capstone Rural Health Clinic
22. Caron Treatment Centers
23. Center for Adolescent Substance Use Research at Boston Children's Hospital
24. Center for Recovery and Wellness Resources
25. CFC Loud n Clear Foundation
26. Chicago Recovering Communities Coalition (CRCC)
27. Colorado Addiction Policy Forum
28. Committee for Children
29. Communities for Recovery
30. Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA)
31. Connecticut Addiction Policy Forum
32. Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery (CCAR)
33. COPES
34. Darjune Recovery Support Center & Services
35. DC Recovery Community Alliance
36. Delphi Behavioral Health Group
37. Detroit Recovery Project, Inc.
38. DisposeRx
39. East End Community Services
40. El Paso Alliance
41. Faces & Voices of Recovery
42. FAVOR Grand Strand
43. FAVOR Greenville
44. FAVOR Low Country
45. FAVOR Midlands
46. FAVOR Mississippi Recovery Advocacy Project
47. FAVOR Pee Dee
48. FAVOR Tri-County
49. Fellowship Foundation RCO
50. Fellowship Foundation Recovery Community Organization
51. Floridians for Recovery
52. Foundation for Recovery
53. Friends of Emmett
54. Friends of Recovery - New York
55. George B. Crane Memorial Center
56. Georgia Council on Substance Abuse
57. Great Bear Recovery Collective
58. Greater Macomb Project VOX
59. Hansen Recovery Resource Center
60. Healing Springs Recovery Community & Outreach Center
61. HOPE for New Hampshire Recovery
62. Hope Harbor
63. Hope Soldiers
64. HTLV/XMRV National Registry
65. Illinois Addiction Policy Forum
66. Indiana Addiction Issues Coalition
67. Indiana Addiction Policy Forum
68. Institute for Behavior and Health, Inc.
69. Invitation to Recovery
70. Jackson Area Recovery Community
71. Kenai Peninsula Reentry Coalition
72. Kentucky Addiction Policy Forum
73. LifeHouse Recovery Connection
74. Live4Lali
75. LivingProof Recovery
76. Long Island Recovery Association (LIRA)
77. Lost Dreams Awaken Center, Inc.
78. Lotus Peer Recovery/SoberKerrville
79. Maine Addiction Policy Forum
80. Maine Alliance for Addiction Recovery
81. Major Cities Chiefs
82. Maryland Addiction Policy Forum
83. Maryland House Detox
84. Massachusetts Addiction Policy Forum
85. Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery (MOAR)
86. Message Carriers of Pennsylvania, Inc.
87. Michigan Addiction Policy Forum
88. Minnesota Addiction Policy Forum
89. Minnesota Alternatives
90. Minnesota Recovery Connection
91. Missouri Addiction Policy Forum
92. Missouri Recovery Network
93. Montana Addiction Policy Forum
94. NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals
95. NACoA - National Association for Children of Addiction
96. National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD)
97. National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers
98. National Association of Counties (NACo)
99. National Association of Social Workers (NASW)
100. National Families in Action
101. National HIDTA Directors Association
102. National Police Foundation
103. National Prevention Science Coalition to Improve Lives
104. National Rural Health Association
105. National Safety Council
106. Navigate Recovery Gwinnett
107. Navigating Recovery of the Lakes Region
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157. Sobriety Matters
158. Solano Recovery Project
159. Solutions Recovery, Inc.
160. SOS Recovery Community Organization
161. South Peninsula Opioid Task Force
162. SpiritWorks Foundation
163. Springs Recovery Connection
164. ST. Luke's Recovery Resource Center
165. Strengthening the Mid-Atlantic Region for Tomorrow (SMART)
166. T.O.R.C.H Inc.
167. Tennessee Addiction Policy Forum
168. Texas Addiction Policy Forum
169. The Addicts Family
170. The Bridge Foundation
171. The Courage Center
172. The DOOR - Dekalb Open Opportunity for Recovery
173. The McShin Foundation
174. The Moyer Foundation
175. The PHOENIX
176. The RASE Project
177. The Serenity House of Flint
178. There is No Hero in Heroin
179. Tia Hart Recovery Community Program
180. Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities (TASC, Inc.) - Illinois
181. Treatment Communities of America
182. Tribe Integrative Recovery
183. Trilogy Recovery Community
184. U MARC (United Mental Health And Addictions Recovery Coalition)
185. United Methodist Church
186. University of Illinois College of Medicine
187. University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine
188. Utah Addiction Policy Forum
189. Utah Support Advocates For Recovery Awareness (USARA)
190. Vermont Recovery Network
191. Virginia Addiction Policy Forum
192. Voices of Hope for Cecil County
193. Voices of Hope Lexington
194. Voices of Recovery San Mateo County
195. WAI-IAM, Inc. and RISE Recovery Community
196. Walker County Health Action Partnership
197. Washington Addiction Policy Forum
198. Washtenaw Recovery Advocacy Project (WRAP)
199. West Virginia Addiction Policy Forum
200. WestCare Kentucky
201. WestCare Tennessee
202. Wisconsin Addiction Policy Forum
203. Wisconsin Recovery Community Organization (WIRCO)
204. Wisconsin Voices for Recovery
205. Young People in Recovery