

Join the Addiction, Treatment, and Recovery Caucus

Dear Colleague,

We are pleased to invite you to join the Congressional Addiction, Treatment and Recovery Caucus to educate and raise awareness among lawmakers about addiction prevention and treatment and substance abuse.

According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, in 2013, an estimated 22.7 million individuals aged 12 or older in 2013 needed treatment for an illicit drug or alcohol use problem (8.6 percent of the population aged 12 or older); only an estimated 2.5 million received treatment at a specialty facility for an illicit drug or alcohol problem. Furthermore, substance abuse costs our nation more than \$600 billion per year through lost earnings, health care expenditures, and costs associated with crime and accidents. Preventing the further spread of this epidemic is essential to our nation's complete recovery.

As each year passes, the number of Americans affected by addiction and mental illness continues to grow, leading to increased health care costs and loss of life. This issue is also a pressing concern with our service men and women. The National Institute on Drug Abuse reports that combined with PTSD and TBI, substance abuse is a key concern with returning veterans. Prescription drug abuse has doubled among U.S. military personnel from 2002-2005 and tripled between 2005-2008.

The Addiction, Treatment and Recovery Caucus aims to stop these devastating trends by bringing awareness to this cause and changing the stigma associated with addiction and mental illness.

We invite you to join us in this most important effort. To join, please contact Katie Doherty on Congressman Fleming's staff at katie.doherty@mail.house.gov or Anne Sokolov on Congressman Ryan's staff at anne.Sokolov@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

John Fleming, M.D.
Member of Congress

Paul Tonko
Member of Congress

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