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## INVESTING IN PREVENTION, TREATMENT, AND RECOVERY SUPPORTS FOR ADDICTION

### COMPREHENSIVE ADDICTION AND RECOVERY ACT (CARA) OF 2015 (S. 524/H.R. 953)

In February 2015, Senators Rob Portman (R-OH) and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), along with Representatives Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI) and Tim Ryan (D-OH), reintroduced the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (S. 524/H.R. 953).

This legislation would adjust existing authorizations and programs to provide desperately needed funds to support community-based addiction treatment. Additionally, the bill expands prevention and educational efforts—particularly aimed at teens, aging populations and parents and other caretakers—to prevent the abuse of heroin and other opioids and to promote treatment and recovery.

NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals, and Hill Day partners strongly support the passage of this legislation.

#### Why do we need the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA)?

**We must do more to curb the opioid and heroin epidemic.** Fatal drug overdose is a leading cause of accidental death. Approximately 38,000 people die each year from drug overdose. That's more than 100 per day, with 40 deaths per day from opioid drugs alone. Opioid and heroin addiction are destroying lives, disrupting families and destabilizing communities.

**The bill supports evidence-based methods to treat addiction.** The Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act builds on proven methods developed at the community level to enable law enforcement to respond to the heroin epidemic and supports long-term recovery by connecting prevention and education efforts with treatment programs, including medication-assisted treatment.

**One remedy will not curb the public health crisis: a comprehensive approach is needed.** The legislation expands prevention and education efforts to prevent the abuse of opioids and heroin and to promote treatment and recovery. It expands the availability of naloxone to prevent overdoses and supports evidence-based opioid and heroin treatment and interventions.

**The bill provides funding to the broad array of entities fighting addiction.** Non-profit organizations, states, law enforcement agencies and others would receive grants for prevention, treatment and recovery activities -- including public education campaigns, programs offering treatment alternatives to incarceration, prescription drug monitoring programs, evidence-based treatment and intervention for substance use disorders, and a

**REQUEST:** Please cosponsor the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (S. 524, H.R. 953).



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national initiative for youth recovery and support services -- along with grants to support state-level initiatives for comprehensive opioid abuse response and programming to expand state addiction and treatment services for women, families and veterans.

## COSPONSORS

*Current as of 9/10/2015*

### Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (S. 524)

CA: Dianne Feinstein (D)  
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 MA: Elizabeth Warren (D)  
 ME: Susan Collins (R)  
 MN: Al Franken (D)  
 MN: Amy Klobuchar (D)

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### Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (H.R. 953)

IL: Tammy Duckworth (D-08)  
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 MA: Katherine Clark (D-05)  
 MD: John Sarbanes (D-03)  
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 NH: Ann Kuster (D-02)  
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 NJ: Leonard Lance (R-07)  
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 NY: Paul Tonko (D-20)  
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