Dear Senator Cochran, Senator Mikulski, Chairman Rogers and Congresswoman Lowey,

The undersigned organizations are writing to urge you to appropriate funds to address the opioid misuse and overdose epidemic as expeditiously as possible. We are grateful for your leadership and the considerable time and attention the Congress has dedicated to addressing the opioid misuse and overdose epidemic thus far, but there is more work to do.

Before Congress recesses for the elections, at least $500 million in new funding to address the epidemic must be appropriated. If an emergency spending bill addressing Zika moves this Congress, it should include funding to address the opioid misuse and overdose epidemic; both Zika and the opioid misuse and overdose epidemic are crises which must be promptly addressed.

We support a comprehensive approach to addressing the opioid misuse and overdose epidemic, which must include full funding for the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act’s (CARA) authorized programs to prevent opioid misuse and address treatment and overdose reversal, as well as recovery support services, as well as the additional funding needed to make CARA’s policy changes a reality.

In addition to fully funding the programs authorized by CARA, we ask that money be appropriated to make the policy changes in CARA a reality and to expand access to treatment and recovery support services in the states. For example, funding must be included for training for nurse practitioners and physician assistants who are now permitted to prescribe buprenorphine, and state and local treatment and recovery organizations urgently need more resources to serve those affected by this epidemic.

While we believe that additional funding in future years will be needed to build and sustain opioid prevention, treatment and recovery programs, an immediate infusion of $500 million reflects the level of current bipartisan and bicameral support for funding. For example, the House Appropriations Committee approved $581 million in the Fiscal Year 2017 Labor, Health and Human Services (LHHS) spending bill to address opioid misuse and overdoses; of the $581 million, $500 million is for a first-ever comprehensive state grant program that will address the opioid epidemic nationwide. Additionally, Senators Murray, Wyden, Leahy and Shaheen have introduced the Expanded Access to Treatment and Recovery Act, which would provide $460 million in funding in Fiscal Year 2017 to give states the tools and resources to invest in treatment of and recovery from prescription opioid and heroin misuse.

Thank you again for your leadership and attention to this matter. The undersigned organizations pledge to continue working with Congress and the Administration to end this epidemic and to ensure CARA’s authorized programs and policy changes are fully funded so the promise of this life-saving law can be fully realized.
Sincerely,

Action Academy
ADASHN, Inc. (Smart Recovery)
Addiction Education Society
Addiction Haven
Addiction Resource Council, Inc.
Advanced Recovery Systems
AFL-CIO
Alano Club of Portland
Amarosa Academy
American Art Therapy Association
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American College of Emergency Physicians
American Correctional Association
American Medical Student Association
American Mental Health Counselors Association
American Orthopsychiatric Association
American Society of Addiction Medicine
Anchor Learning Academy
Aquila Recovery Clinic
Archway Academy
Arise & Flourish
Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness
The Association of Alternative Peer Groups
Association of Recovery in Higher Education
Association of Recovery Schools
Association of Flight Attendants - CWA
Association of Recovery Schools
Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Bennington School
Brandi’s Wish Foundation
The Bridge Way School
Carlbrook School
Caron Renaissance
Center for Clinical Social Work/ABE/ACSWA
Central City Concern

The Chris Atwood Foundation
CLEAN Cause Water
Clery for a New Drug Policy
CMSEC
The Coalition of Behavioral Health Services
The College of New Jersey (TCNJ)
Collegiate Recovery Center at The University of Colorado-Boulder
Collegiate Recovery Program at The University of North Texas
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
Cornerstone Recovery
The Council on Alcohol & Drug Abuse
The Council on Recovery
Daytop Preparatory School
Drug Prevention Resources
EndTheStigma EnoughIsEnough
Facing Addiction
Fairfield University
FAVOR-Pee Dee
Fellowship Foundation
Friends of Recovery – New York
Futures of Palm Beach
G III Associates
GAAMA, Inc.
Glow Media
Grand Valley State University – ACES Office
Harm Reduction Coalition
Haven House Juneau
Headwaters Academy
High Point Treatment Center
HIV Medicine Association
Hope Academy
Hope and OVERcoming
Horizon High School
Houston Recovery Initiative
Independence Academy
Insight Program
International Nurses Society on Addictions
The Jake Koenigsdorf Foundation
Jose A. Valdez High School
Kent R.O.A.D.S. School (Recovery, Opportunity, Desire, Success)
King County Mental Health
Legal Action Center
Liberty Prep Academy
Life of Purpose
Lifeway International
Lost & Found Recovery Center
Mariah's Mission Fund
The McShin Foundation
Memorial Hermann Prevention and Recovery Center
Michigan Heroin & Opiate Prevention and Education
Mission Academy
NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals
National Alliance to End Homelessness
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers
National Association of County & City Health Officials
National Association of Social Workers
NCADD - Maryland
NCADD - San Diego
Newport Academy
Northshore Recovery High School
The Ohio State University Collegiate Recovery Community
Oklahoma Citizen Advocates for Recovery & Treatment Association
Parent to Parent, Inc.
P.E.A.S.E. Academy
Phoenix Academy Charter School
The Raymond J. Lesniak Experience, Strength and Hope Recovery High School
Recover Wyoming
Recovery Africa
Redfield Academy
reGROUP: Peer Advocates for Addiction Recovery
Rockdale Recovery High School
Santa Clarita Sober School
Santa Maria Hostel, Inc.
SEARCH Homeless Services
Serenity Academy of Chicago
Serenity High School
The Serenity House of Flint
Serenity Sistas' Recovery Homes for Women
Silver Hill Hospital
The Sobriety Collective
Springs Recovery Connection
Summit County Recovery Foundation
Sunshine Prevention Center
Teen and Family Services
Teen Recovery Solutions
Texas Tech – Center for the Study of Addiction
Three Oaks Academy
Transforming Youth Recovery
Treatment Communities of America
University High School, Austin, TX
University of Houston, Cougars in Recovery
Urgent Care Association of America
Valley Hope
Visions Day School
Waterford Academy
Waubun-Ogema-White Earth
Winfree Academy
Your Recovery Life

CC:
The Honorable Roy Blunt
The Honorable Patty Murray
The Honorable Tom Cole
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro