The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the addiction epidemic in our country and contributed to a nearly 30 percent increase in the number of overdose deaths in the past year. In the wake of increased isolation coupled with treatment and support system disruptions, the number of people suffering and dying from overdoses soared to more than 93,000, the highest annual total on record.\(^1\) Now, more than ever, those who are struggling with addiction need our help. We urge the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee to take up and pass S. 485, The Family Support Services for Addiction Act. This bipartisan bill, which has already passed the House of Representatives, would provide $25 million in grant funding over five years for family support services—training, education and peer-to-peer support—that are necessary components of effective addiction treatment and recovery.

Substance Use Disorders create many victims; family support services help to effectively aid them all by meeting families where they are, which is in their own communities. Evidence shows that when families are involved in their loved one’s treatment and recovery, outcomes improve for everyone involved.\(^{[i],[ii]}\) For the person struggling with SUD, family engagement helps increase their commitment to treatment and strengthens lasting support systems for long-term recovery.\(^{[iii],[iv]}\) For family members, support services provide key training and education while alleviating many of the adversities—stress, guilt, shame, anger, fear, anxiety, loss, grief, and isolation—that come from caring for someone experiencing a Substance Use Disorder.\(^{[v]}\) Additionally, preventing and reducing the current medical, environmental, emotional, and psychological disorders experienced by family members can help reduce future risks.

Despite the importance of family support services, financial resources have been exceptionally constrained and federal support has been largely absent. By providing $25 million in grant funding to national and local family support service programs, the Family Support Services for Addiction Act fills the gaping hole in federal support. Through this act, thousands of families will be empowered with the knowledge and resources to support themselves and their loved ones.

At this critical time, we urge you to take up and pass S. 485, Family Support Services for Addiction Act.

Sincerely,

180 Interventions
Action Coalition of Johnson County, TN
Addiction Awareness-what can we do to save a life?
Advocates for Opioid Recovery
American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry
American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work
American Association on Health and Disability
American Counseling Association
American Mental Health Counselors Association
Arise& Flourish, Inc
Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness
atTAcK addiction
Bfyne complex
BigBee Energy Coaching
Boys & Girls Clubs of America
California Consortium of Addiction Programs & Professionals
Celebrate Recovery at Northland
Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD)
Child & Family Services of Newport County
Citizens Attacking Addiction
Community Development Partnerships, Inc.
Community in Crisis
Covenant Community, Inc.
Creative Recover
Donation with Love Foundation
Donegal Substance Abuse Alliance
Embrace ND Inc
Entertainment Industries Council, Inc. (EIC)
Faces and Voices of Recovery
Faith Over Fear Outreach
Families Against Narcotics Blue Water Chapter
Families Against Narcotics Inc
Families of Addicts
Families USA
Family Medical Center
Family Medical Center of Michigan
Family Support Services for Addiction
Florida Mental Health Advocacy Coalition
Food Safety Training Solutions
Girls Inc.
Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice
Glorious Recovery Foundation
Greater Philadelphia Association for Recovery Education
Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation
Jkfoundation
Kohnlinq, Inc. DBA Kohn-ling Foundation, Inc
Lakeshore Foundation
Learn to Cope
Lost Voices of Fentanyl
Manhasset Community Coalition Against Substance Abuse
Mercer Council
Mental Health & Addiction Resources Board of Lorain County, Ohio
Ministry of Health & Wellness: Substance Abuse Advisory Council
Mississippi Recovery Advocacy Project
MoCo Recovery Group
MomsLettingCo.com
MPOWRD for Leadership and Prevention
NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals
NACBHDD
NARMH
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers
National Association for Children of Addiction
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Recreation and Parks Association
Network of Jewish Human Services Agencies
New Roots INC
Newtown Parent Connection
New York Association of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Providers
Parent 2 Parent Strategies
Parents Helping Parents, Inc.
Partnership to End Addiction
Powerful teachers and parents
Prevention Resources
PRO-A
Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)
Pyramid Life Center
Reach for Tomorrow Ohio
Ryan's Opioid Pandemic Coalition & Advocacy
SHE RECOVERS Foundation
SMART Recovery
Sonoran Prevention Works
Southern Recovery Advocacy
SOZO recovery


[v] Ibid.