

[Home](#) / [Media](#) / [Press Releases](#)

# Reps. McClain, Trone Introduce Bipartisan Legislation to Confront the Stigma Surrounding Substance Use Disorders

June 30, 2021 [Press Release](#)

WASHINGTON -- In the wake of a record **89,000** drug overdose deaths last year alone, today, Representatives Lisa McClain (R-MI) and David Trone (D-MD) introduced the *Stopping Titles that Overtly Perpetuate (STOP) Stigma Act*. The legislation would change the names of federal agencies and programs that currently promote stigmatizing language. By changing the names of these agencies and grants we can end the stigma of addiction and encourage those who are battling this disease to get the help they need.

"Treating mental health like all other health is critically important. We've made tremendous strides over the years on mental health treatments, and we can't stop now," **said Congresswoman McClain**. "I'm proud to cosponsor the STOP Stigma Act which will examine further ways to destigmatize language around the broad areas of mental health, so individuals are not deterred or embarrassed, but willing and determined to ask for help and answers when they need it most."

"All too often addiction is treated like a moral failure instead of a disease that kills tens of thousands of people every year," **said Congressman David Trone, founder of the Bipartisan Addiction and Mental Health Task Force**. "The language we use matters and has weight, which is why it's our job as leaders to take action against these negative stereotypes. This bill begins to reframe our thinking around substance use disorder to emphasize that those who are battling addiction are not at fault for their illness. I want to thank my colleague Rep. McClain for joining me in this bipartisan effort."

"A shift is happening across the nation in how we talk about addiction and recovery by eliminating stigmatizing, harmful language. Now is the time for Congress to act on what we now know through research by removing the word "abuse" from the names of federal agencies related to substance use disorder. It is much more than a symbolic gesture; it is for the dignity of those who represent those agencies and the American people who they serve," **said Patty McCarthy, Chief Executive Officer for Faces & Voices of Recovery**.

This legislation is endorsed by: Addiction Professionals of North Carolina; American Society of Addiction Medicine; Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness; Behavioral Health Association of Providers; California Consortium of Addiction Programs & Professionals; Faces and Voices of Recovery; The Kennedy Forum; NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals; National Association for Behavioral Healthcare; National Council for Mental Wellbeing; Shatterproof.

###

## Contact Us

### Washington DC Office

218 Cannon House Office  
Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: (202) 225-2106  
Fax: (202) 226-1169

### District Office

6303 26 Mile Rd  
Suite 110  
Washington, MI 48094  
Phone: (586) 697-9300