

March 15, 2024

Dear Members of the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress:

We, the undersigned stakeholders, representing a diverse array of organizations dedicated to enhancing access to high-quality addiction care, express our disappointment at the omission of critical addiction and mental health policies in the recently passed minibuss package. We call on the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress to pass **S. 3393 - the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Reauthorization Act** and **S. 644 - the Modernizing Opioid Treatment Access Act (“MOTAA”)**, which have passed the Senate HELP Committee with strong bipartisan support.

The enactment of the SUPPORT Act over five years ago marked a bipartisan triumph. The SUPPORT Act reauthorizes key federal programs to address the opioid epidemic and support patients with substance use disorders. With a [predicted 111,000 plus drug overdose deaths in the U.S. during the 12-month period ending September 2023](#), those programs are more critical now than ever.

In addition, MOTAA would expand access to methadone, a life-saving medication that is proven to significantly reduce the risk of fatal overdose for those suffering from opioid use disorder (OUD). MOTAA is a measured, bipartisan bill that would allow addiction specialist physicians to prescribe this highly effective medication for the treatment of OUD and allow patients to pick up this medication in pharmacies. Methadone is particularly critical in combatting the threat of fentanyl. Studies have shown that for those receiving methadone treatment for OUD, fentanyl positivity declines sharply.

Our nation’s escalating addiction and overdose crisis demands urgent action. Record numbers of Americans are succumbing to addiction and overdose, largely fueled by illicitly manufactured fentanyl, further complicated by substances, such as xylazine and methamphetamine. Reversing this trend requires comprehensive utilization of all available tools in our toolbox.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. We remain committed to working together for the well-being of our nation and urgently request your courageous leadership.

Sincerely,

A New PATH

Above and Beyond Family Recovery Center

AIDS Foundation Chicago

American Association of Psychiatric Pharmacists (AAPP)

American College of Academic Addiction Medicine (ACAAM)

American College of Medical Toxicology (ACMT)

American Osteopathic Academy of Addiction Medicine (AOAAM)

American Psychological Association Services

American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM)

AMERSA

Any Positive Change, Inc.

Arizonans For Transparency and Accountability In Corrections

Being Alive - LA  
Big Cities Health Coalition  
Boston Medical Center  
California Consortium of Addiction Programs & Professionals  
Cannabis Equity Illinois Coalition  
Center for Adolescent Behavioral Health Research, Boston Children's Hospital  
Community Catalyst  
Detroit Recovery Project  
Dream.Org  
Drug Policy Alliance  
Due Process Institute  
Faces and Voices of Recovery  
Families On the Move of NYC, Inc.  
Fox Valley Perinatology  
FreedomWorks  
REDC Consortium  
Greater Lawrence Family Health Center  
Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center  
Hep Free Hawai'i  
HIV Alliance  
Honoring Individual Power and Strength  
iHOPE-Intentional Holistic Opportunities to Promote Empowerment, Inc.  
Illinois Harm Reduction & Recovery Coalition  
Illinois Society of Addiction Medicine  
Inseparable  
International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium  
JOLT Foundation  
Lake Charles Addiction and Wellness Center  
Louisiana Society of Addiction Medicine  
Massachusetts General Brigham  
Massachusetts Medical Society  
Massachusetts Society of Addiction Medicine  
Mental Health America  
Monogram Medical, PC  
National Commission on Correctional Health Care  
National Health Care for the Homeless Council  
National Safety Council  
New York Society of Addiction Medicine  
One World Recovery Network  
Overdose Crisis Response Fund  
Overdose Prevention Initiative  
Pennsylvania Harm Reduction Network  
People, Place & Health Collective at Brown University  
Michigan Society of Addiction Medicine  
Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada  
Providence

Public Justice Center  
R Street Institute  
Reassemble Education & Training, Inc.  
Retinc  
RI International  
Sana Healing Collective  
Shatterproof  
SMART Recovery  
Tapestry Health Systems, Inc.  
Tennessee Justice Center  
Tennessee Society of Addiction Medicine  
The Black Cat Coffee House  
The Kennedy Forum  
The Porchlight Collective SAP  
Today I Matter, Inc.  
Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities  
Vital Strategies  
Washington Society of Addiction Medicine  
Wisconsin Society of Addiction Medicine  
Young People in Recovery