



NEWS RELEASE

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CEPOP PRAISES PRESIDENT OBAMA FOR LAUNCHING EXPANDED FEDERAL AND PRIVATE SECTOR RESPONSE TO EPIDEMIC OF OPIOID ABUSE, ADDICTION, AND OVERDOSE

Leaders Call on White House to Provide Sustained Coordination

WASHINGTON, D.C. (October 22, 2015) – The Collaborative for Effective Prescription Opioid Policies (CEPOP) today voiced strong support for President Obama’s announcement of an Administration-wide effort, alongside other levels of government and the private sector, to identify and pursue all available strategies to confront the opioid abuse epidemic in our nation.

“CEPOP was formed earlier this year to support a comprehensive and balanced approach to this immense, life-threatening challenge for so many Americans,” noted Hon. Mary Bono, a co-founder of the group. “We must redouble our efforts now to find the most effective ways to reduce unnecessary use of prescription opioids from the hospital to the clinic to the pharmacy and into the home. With sustained commitment at the highest levels of government and the private sector, we can begin to turn tide on addiction and overdose.”

“We commend the President for speaking out on this important issue, which is devastating families and communities across our nation. The President’s Fiscal Year 2016 budget includes \$133 million in new investments aimed at addressing the opioid epidemic, including expanding state-level prescription drug overdose prevention strategies. CADCA applauds President Obama’s commitment to reducing prescription drug misuse and opioid abuse with these kinds of resources,” said Gen. Arthur T. Dean, CADCA Chairman and CEO and a CEPOP co-founder.

“Every single day, 44 Americans overdose on prescription painkillers and die as a result. And every day another American turns to a cheaper alternative—heroin,” said Jeffrey Levi, PhD,

executive director of Trust for America's Health. "We must act now to prevent the next person from fatally misusing drugs. And that is why the Collaborative for Effective Prescription Opioid Policies was formed—to solve this problem by bringing all the involved parties—doctors, pharmacists, law enforcement, treatment centers and manufacturers—to the same table."

About CEPOP

The Collaborative for Effective Prescription Opioid Policies (CEPOP) brings together a broad array of stakeholders interested in the appropriate use of opioid medications. Specifically, CEPOP supports a comprehensive and balanced public policy agenda that reduces abuse and promotes treatment options, both for those living with pain and confronting addiction. CEPOP's advocacy is focused on driving actions in the public sector that develop and deploy evidence-based solutions to these challenges.

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