



VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

June 21, 2016

RE: Conference Committee on Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016

Dear Conferees:

The Collaborative for Effective Prescription Opioid Policies (CEPOP) involves nearly 70, diverse organizations working together for a comprehensive and balanced policy strategy to reduce prescription opioid abuse and promote treatment options, both for those living with pain and facing addiction. We are writing today to urge your timely action on the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 (CARA).

Specifically, the undersigned CEPOP participants are grateful for the bipartisan support of CARA and the broad array of related bills passed in the U.S. House. This legislative package represents a major step in the right direction to confront opioid abuse and misuse in the United States through prevention, treatment (including expanded access to medication-assisted treatment), recovery, overdose reversal, criminal justice reform, and law enforcement strategies.

As your negotiations move forward, we urge the Conferees to act both quickly and thoroughly. Every day that passes, over 100 Americans – mothers, fathers, sons and daughters – die tragically from a drug overdose. We encourage the Conferees to accept all of the distinct program components specified in the Senate-passed version of CARA including:

- national education campaign;
- community-based coalition enhancement grants to address local drug crises;
- evidence-based opioid and heroin treatment and interventions pilot;
- national youth recovery initiative;
- building communities of recovery;
- task force consideration of alternatives to opioids in pain management;
- competitive grants for pregnant and parenting women;
- treatment alternative to incarceration programs;
- first responder training/overdose-reversal;
- CJ medication-assisted treatment and interventions pilot;
- correctional education demonstration grant program;
- veterans treatment courts;
- prescription drug take-back expansion;
- heroin and methamphetamine task forces;
- National Task Force on Recovery and Collateral Consequences;
- state demonstration grants for comprehensive opioid abuse response;
- GAO report on IMD exclusion;
- programs to prevent prescription drug abuse under the Medicare program; and
- Transnational Drug Trafficking Act.

We also urge the Conferees to support the separate House-passed components including:

- Co-Prescribing to Reduce Overdoses Act of 2016;
- Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Reduction Act of 2016;
- Good Samaritan Assessment Act of 2016;
- Improving Treatment for Pregnant and Postpartum Women Act of 2016;
- Infant Plan of Safe Care Improvement Act;
- John Thomas Decker Act of 2016;
- Kingpin Designation improvement Act of 2016;
- Lali's Law;
- National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting Reauthorization Act of 2015;
- Nurturing and Supporting Healthy Babies Act;
- Opioid Program Evaluation Act;
- Opioid Review Modernization Act of 2016;
- Opioid Use Disorder Treatment expansion and Modernization Act;
- Jason Simcakoski PROMISE Act;
- Reducing Unused Medications Act of 2016; and
- Veteran Emergency Medical Technician Support Act of 2016.

Finally, it is critical that these initiatives have sufficient resources to achieve real impact. We strongly encourage that adequate, additional funding be provided.

Thank you for your commitment to advance sound policies and programs that help turn the tide of the opioid epidemic. We stand ready to support these initiatives and to develop additional responses that save lives.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Addiction Psychiatrists
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
Collegium Pharmaceutical
Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America
Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation
Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy
Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals
National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors
National Athletic Trainers' Association
National Safety Council
Pacira Pharmaceuticals
Shatterproof
The Gerontological Society of America
The Honorable Mary Bono
Trust for America's Health