The Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act was introduced by Senators Rob Portman (R-OH) and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) on September 17, 2014. Crafted as a means of addressing the addiction public health crisis, this bill would adjust existing authorizations and programs to provide a series of resources and incentives to help health care providers, law enforcement officials, states and local governments expand drug treatment, prevention and recovery efforts. The National Council strongly supports this legislation and commends Senators Portman and Whitehouse for their work on this important issue.

Many of the Act’s provisions include funding for grants to nonprofit organizations (among other entities) for prevention, treatment, and recovery activities. These include:

- **Public education campaigns for opioid abuse and overdose prevention.** The bill authorizes two-year grants to states, local governments, or nonprofits to carry out public education against opioid, heroin, and other substance abuse. Funds may also be used for educational activities that foster public understanding of addiction as a chronic disease and raise awareness of treatment and prevention resources in the community. The bill expressly identifies parents, caretakers, teenagers, college students, and college-age individuals as priority audiences for these educational campaigns. **Authorizes $2.5 million per year for four years.**

- **Programs offering treatment alternatives to incarceration.** The bill authorizes grants to states, local governments, or nonprofits to create and carry out programs promoting alternatives to incarceration for individuals within the criminal justice system. Programs can focus on pre- and post-booking interventions, including enhanced education and specialized treatment services. **Authorizes $5 million per year for four years.**

- **Evidence-based treatment and intervention for substance use disorders.** The bill authorizes grants for entities, including nonprofits, to expand evidence-based treatment for substance use disorders. Treatment and intervention programs should include the availability of medication-assisted treatment, defined as the use of medications in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies. **Authorizes $10 million for fiscal year 2016 and any additional funds deemed necessary for each of the fiscal years 2016-2020.**

- **A national initiative for youth recovery and support services.** The bill authorizes grants to entities, including nonprofits, to establish or expand substance use recovery and support services programs for young people. Funds should help build supportive communities for young people in recovery and encourage initiatives to help young people achieve and sustain recovery from substance use. **Authorizes $3 million per year for five years.**

- **Building recovery community organizations.** The bill authorizes grants to nonprofit organizations to increase long-term recovery services within their communities. Funds may be used on efforts to reduce stigma associated with substance use disorders and to conduct public education and outreach on issues related to substance use and recovery. **Authorizes $5.7 million per year for three years.**
• **Education and occupational training programs for offenders in correctional facilities.** The bill authorizes grants to states, local governments, or nonprofits to carry out education and occupational training programs for offenders in correctional facilities. Funds may be used for certification programs and technology solutions to meet the needs of the correctional populations and facilitate the continued participation of students post-release. **Authorizes $5 million per year for four years.**

• **A national task force on recovery and collateral consequences.** The bill directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to convene a nine-member, bipartisan task force to identify collateral consequences for individuals in recovery with previous convictions. The task force will then develop regulatory and legislative recommendations to reduce and eliminate these identified consequences. The task force should be comprised of experts of national recognition in relevant policy areas.

The bill also includes a number of activities targeted toward states, law enforcement agencies, and other entities. These include:

• **An initiative for comprehensive opioid abuse response.** The bill authorizes grants to States to prepare a comprehensive plan for an integrated opioid abuse response initiative. The plan should include: education campaigns for heroin and opioid use, treatment and recovery; a prescription drug monitoring program; and standardized methods and measures to determine program effectiveness. State must first apply for a planning grant; those states that receive a planning grant will develop a strategic and program implementation plan and may apply for a two-year implementation grant. **Authorizes $15 million per year for four years.**

• **The development of an inter-agency task force to develop best prescribing practices for pain management and prescribing pain medication.** The task force should include representatives from a number of agencies including: the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as well as medical experts, advocacy groups and representative of the mental health and substance use disorder treatment communities.

• **Pilot programs to prevent opioid overdose deaths.** The bill authorizes grants to states, local government, or law enforcement agencies to create and implement evidence-based programs to prevent opioid overdose deaths. Funds may be used to make naloxone available to law enforcement officials and provide training for law enforcement officers on carrying and administering naloxone. **Authorizes $5 million per year for four years.**

• **Programming to expand State addiction and treatment services for women, families and veterans.** The bill authorizes grants to State substance abuse agencies and State criminal justice agencies to address the use of opioids and heroin among women, families and veterans. Funds may be used to facilitate collaboration between criminal justice and substance abuse systems. Funds may so be used to expand State services for pregnancy and parenting female offenders who use opioids, heroin and other drugs. **Authorizes $5 million per year for four years.**

Questions? Contact Chuck Ingoglia at chucki@thenationalcouncil.org or 202-684-7457 ext. 249