



INVESTING IN PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND RECOVERY SUPPORT FOR ADDICTION: COMPREHENSIVE ADDICTION AND RECOVERY ACT (2.0) OF 2018 (S. 2456/ H.R. 5311)

In 2016, Congress took an important step in addressing the nation's opioid and overall addiction crisis with the passage of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA). The law encompasses six pillars necessary for a coordinated response to the opioid crisis – prevention, treatment, recovery, law enforcement, criminal justice reform and overdose reversal. The law has provided resources to expand addiction treatment and recovery support nationwide.

Yet today, with drug overdoses taking 64,000 lives each year, it is clear that CARA's mission is far from realized. In response, a bipartisan CARA 2.0 bill was introduced in the 115th Congress to expand and improve upon the work already achieved by the original CARA law. The bill would authorize \$1 billion in grants to increase access to medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for opioid use disorders, expand availability of recovery support services, promote use of national standards for recovery housing and mandate more stringent tracking of opioid prescriptions.

The National Council and Hill Day partners strongly support passage of this legislation.

BOTTOM LINE

CARA 2.0 provides a broad response to the opioid crisis using evidenced-based programs

REQUEST

Cosponsor the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) 2.0 of 2018

WHY DO WE NEED THE COMPREHENSIVE ADDICTION AND RECOVERY ACT 2.0?

We must do more to curb the opioid crisis. America is in the midst of the most-deadly addiction crisis in history. More Americans died from drug overdoses in 2016 than the total number of American casualties during the Vietnam War. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) most recent statistics, drug overdoses are driving an unprecedented decline in overall life expectancy. While addiction is a treatable disease, only about 10 percent of those who need treatment receive it, and untreated addiction is having a devastating impact in communities across our nation.

The bill supports evidence-based methods to treat addiction. CARA 2.0 provides desperately-needed funding for addiction treatment including MAT – the gold standard of opioid addiction treatment. Yet most people with opioid use disorder have no access to MAT. Even after treatment, individuals with addiction require ongoing support to manage their chronic condition. Recognizing this fact, the bill specifically dedicates funding to recovery support services, such as recovery housing and recovery community centers. These services have shown promising results in helping individuals achieve and maintain long-term recovery from addiction.

Opioid addiction is a public health crisis that needs a multifaceted solution. To break the cycle of addiction, CARA 2.0 establishes a strategy to address all stages of substance use. The legislation expands prevention and education efforts to prevent the misuse of

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opioids and supports key treatment and recovery resources. The bill would authorize \$300 million to support MAT programs and authorize another \$300 million to expand first responder training and access to naloxone, a lifesaving opioid overdose reversal medication. Importantly, CARA 2.0 also authorizes \$200 million to build a national infrastructure for recovery support services to help individuals transition successfully from treatment into long-term recovery.

The bill provides funding to the broad array of entities fighting addiction. Non-profit organizations, states, law enforcement agencies and others would receive grants for prevention, treatment and recovery activities – including public education campaigns, programs offering treatment alternatives to incarceration, prescription drug monitoring programs, evidence-based treatment and intervention for substance use disorders and a national initiative for youth recovery and support services – along with grants to expand addiction services for women, families and veterans.

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