

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 29, 2017

Hon. John Culberson, Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science,
and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. José Serrano, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science,
and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

Hon. Tom Cole, Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education
and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education
and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

Hon. Tom Graves, Chairman
Subcommittee on Financial Services
and General Government
House Committee on Appropriations
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Mike Quigley, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Financial Services
and General Government
House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

As you know, the opioid epidemic is having a devastating impact on public health and safety across the United States. According to the CDC, drug overdoses now surpass automobile accidents as the leading cause of injury-related death for Americans aged 25 to 64. More than 144 Americans die as a result of overdose every day. While addiction is a treatable disease, only about ten percent of those who need treatment get it.

That is why we are writing to express our strong support for funding in FY2018 for the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA), authorized in three subcommittees:

- **Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Act, \$115 million**
- **Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations Act, \$60 million**
- **Financial Services Appropriations Act, \$5 million**

We know from researchers, the law enforcement community, and treatment providers that the most effective way to address the challenges posed by addiction is to initiate a comprehensive response to the twin epidemics of opioid and heroin addiction. Designed to respond both to today's heroin and opiate epidemic and tomorrow's threats, this bill is a comprehensive response to substance use disorders that includes *prevention, law enforcement strategies, addressing overdoses, expansion of evidence-based treatment, and support for those in, or seeking, recovery.*

Among other provisions, CARA would expand:

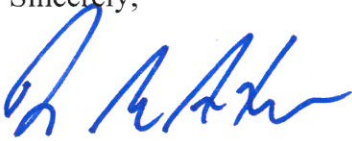
- **Prevention and educational** efforts—particularly aimed at teens, parents and other caretakers, and aging populations—to prevent the abuse of opioids and heroin.
- The availability of **naloxone** to law enforcement agencies and other first responders.
- **Treatment** -- resources to promptly identify and treat individuals suffering from addiction disorders in the criminal justice system.
- Disposal sites for **unwanted prescription medications** to keep them out of the hands of our children and adolescents.
- Evidence-based addiction **treatment and intervention programs** to expand best practices throughout the country.
- **Medication assisted treatment** demonstrations nationwide.
- **Veterans Treatment Courts** to expand evidence-based treatment and peer-to-peer services.

As you begin consideration of the FY2018 appropriations bill, we hope that you will recognize the significance of the epidemic in our midst and support the comprehensive framework of CARA. Doing so would provide the resources and incentives necessary for states and local governments to expand treatment, prevention, and recovery efforts for the millions of Americans who are affected by addiction.

Only through a comprehensive approach that leverages evidence-based law enforcement and health care services, including treatment – like that clearly articulated by the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act – can we stop and reverse current trends.

Thank you for your consideration of this important funding request.

Sincerely,



Tom MacArthur
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Patrick Meehan
Member of Congress



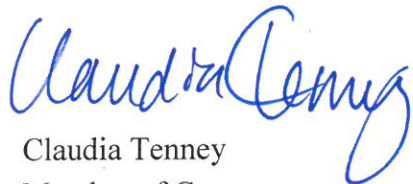
Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



Randy Hultgren
Member of Congress



David Cicilline
Member of Congress



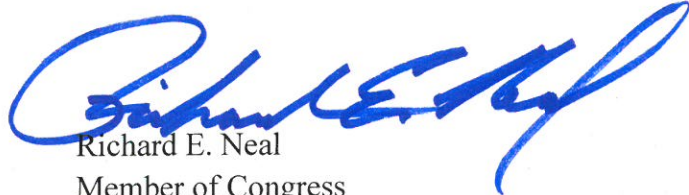
Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



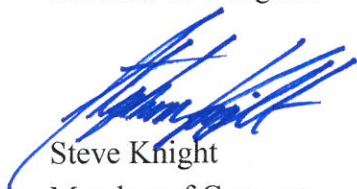
Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



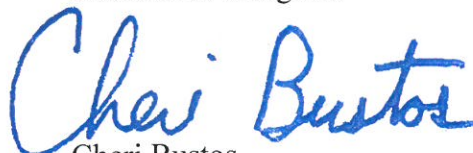
Barbara Comstock
Member of Congress



Tom Suozzi
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Steve Knight
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Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress



Jackie Walorski
Member of Congress



Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress



Ryan Costello
Member of Congress



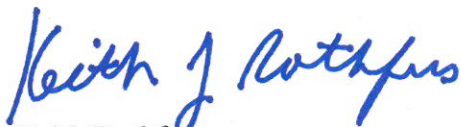
Ron Kind
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Rodney Davis
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William R. Keating
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Keith Rothfus
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Niki Tsongas
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Peter King
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John Larson
Member of Congress



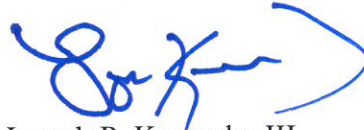
Ted Deutch
Member of Congress



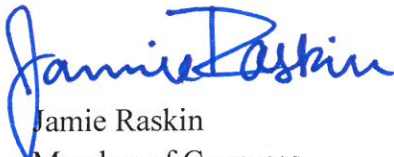
Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



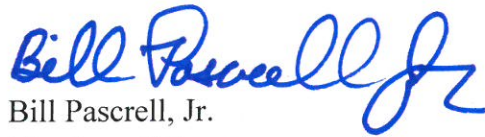
Hakeem Jeffries
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Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress



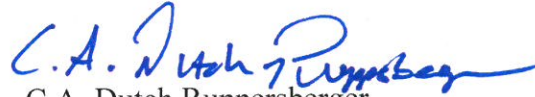
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



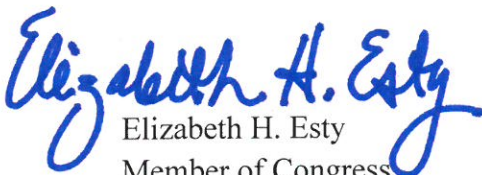
Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



Scott Peters
Member of Congress



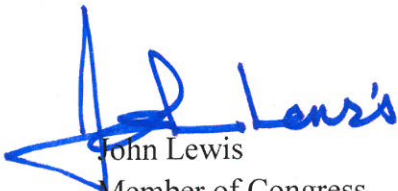
C.A. Dutch Ruppberger
Member of Congress



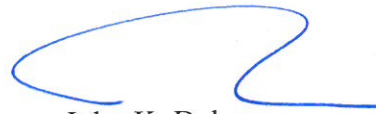
Elizabeth H. Esty
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Bradley S. Schneider
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John Lewis
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John K. Delaney
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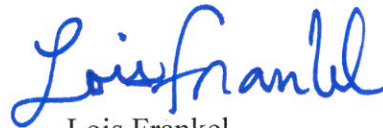
Mark DeSaulnier
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John Yarmuth
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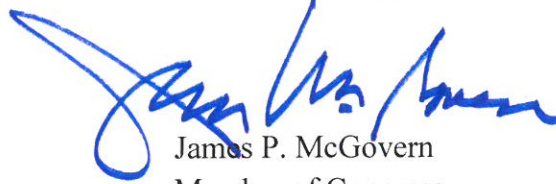
Scott Tipton
Member of Congress



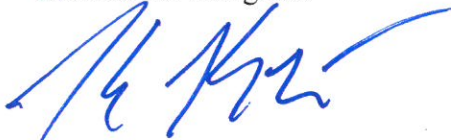
Lois Frankel
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Lou Barletta
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James P. McGovern
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John Katko
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Joe Courtney
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Glenn Thompson
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Michelle Lujan Grisham
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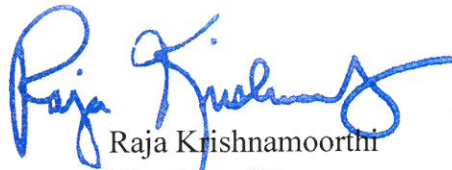
Lee Zeldin
Member of Congress



Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress



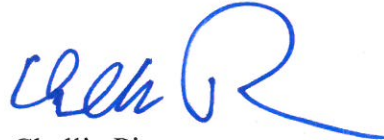
Sean Duffy
Member of Congress



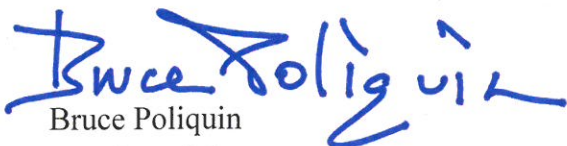
Raja Krishnamoorthi
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Mike Turner
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Bruce Poliquin
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Kathleen M. Rice
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Mark Takano
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Daniel W. Lipinski
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Elijah Cummings
Member of Congress



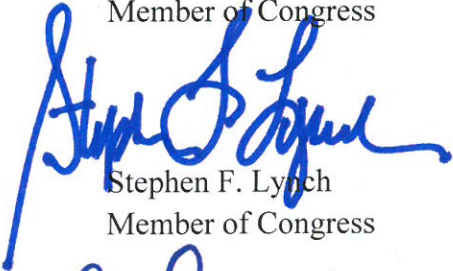
Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



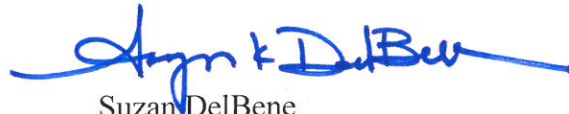
Frank A. LoBiondo
Member of Congress



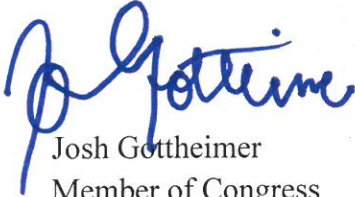
Jacky Rosen
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
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