

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 12, 2016

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker and Madam Leader,

Heroin and prescription opioid misuse is devastating communities nationwide. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), currently more than 129 Americans die every day as a result of drug overdoses and the epidemic is worsening. This crisis is exacerbated by the increased use of a deadlier and more potent opioid known as fentanyl, which is driving the majority of fatal overdoses. At the same time, the lack of resources, treatment options, research funding, and drug education impedes efforts to resolve the crisis.

Earlier this year, Congress acted with overwhelming support to give law enforcement, healthcare providers, caregivers, and educators more resources to better do their jobs. Passage of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) shows Congress' bipartisan commitment to resolve this epidemic by providing grants to communities to fight substance use disorder.

Additionally, the House Appropriations Committee reflected many of the advances developed in CARA that address needed heroin and opioid funding changes in several of the FY17 subcommittee bills reported out of Committee. However, these funding adjustments will not be reflected in a continuing resolution, whether short or long-term, hamstringing our national response for Americans suffering and dying from heroin and opioid addiction. Congress' inability to finish the appropriations process threatens to leave embattled communities without the funding and assistance they need to save lives.

Recognizing American lives hang in the balance, we request consideration for appropriation anomalies in negotiations of a continuing resolution that reflect the advances made in the FY17 subcommittee bills, which address opioid enforcement, prevention, treatment, research, and recovery efforts. Funding as appropriated in FY16 simply does not reflect the current intent of Congress or come close to addressing the life-saving needs of our communities.

Through the comprehensive and targeted approach reflected in the FY17 bills, which leverage evidence-based law enforcement initiatives, treatment, and support for recovery, we can reverse the skyrocketing number of heroin and prescription opioid overdoses and

deaths. We hope you will prioritize this request and grant these life-saving anomalies to ensure timely and adequate help for our communities that daily suffer the burdens of prescription opioid and heroin abuse.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



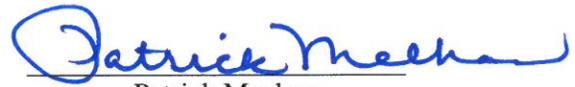
Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress



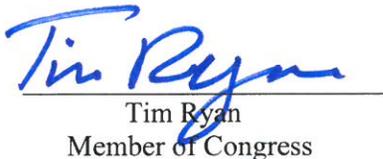
Frank C. Guinta  
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur  
Member of Congress



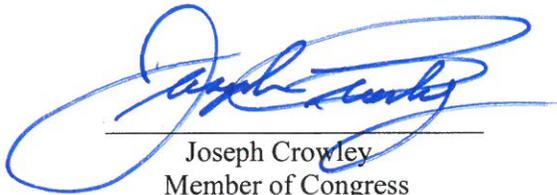
Patrick Meehan  
Member of Congress



Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress



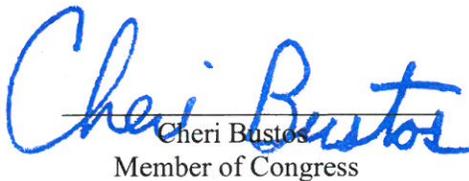
Steve Knight  
Member of Congress



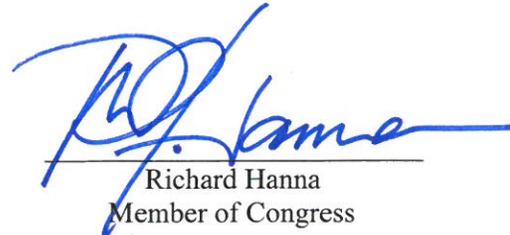
Joseph Crowley  
Member of Congress



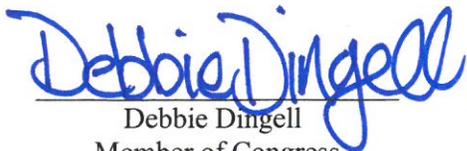
Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress



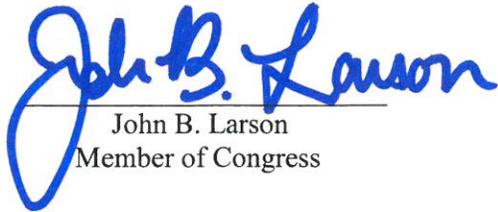
Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress

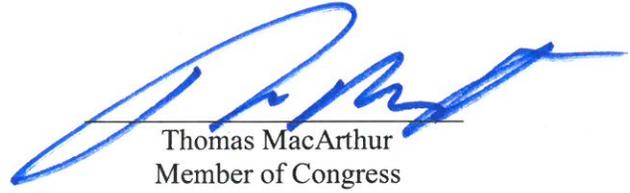


Richard Hanna  
Member of Congress

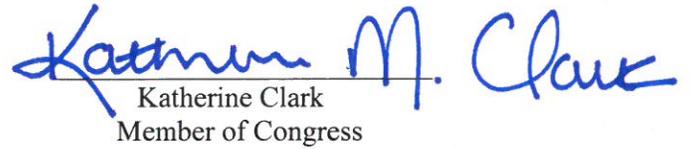
  
Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress

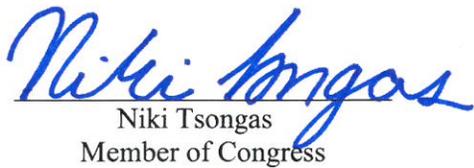
  
Keith J. Rothfus  
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John B. Larson  
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Thomas MacArthur  
Member of Congress

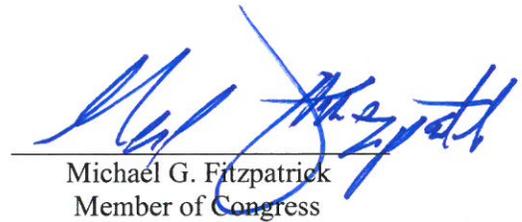
  
Grace Meng  
Member of Congress

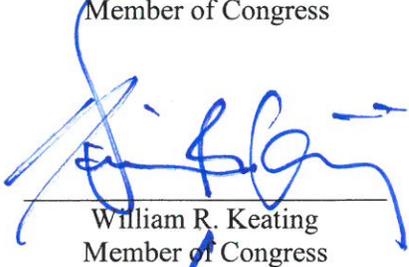
  
Katherine Clark  
Member of Congress

  
Niki Tsongas  
Member of Congress

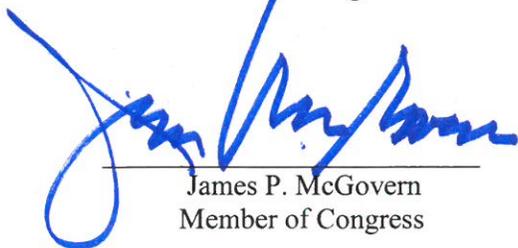
  
Bruce Poliquin  
Member of Congress

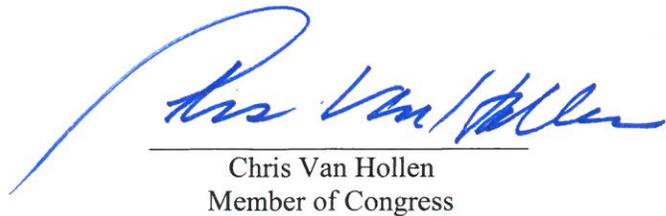
  
David N. Cicilline  
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Michael G. Fitzpatrick  
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William R. Keating  
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Seth Moulton  
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James P. McGovern  
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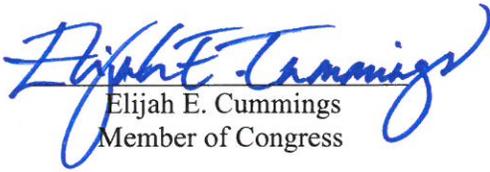
  
Chris Van Hollen  
Member of Congress



Paul Tonko  
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Sean Patrick Maloney  
Member of Congress



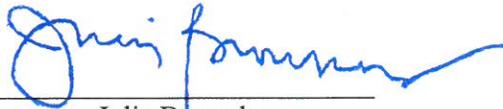
Elijah E. Cummings  
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



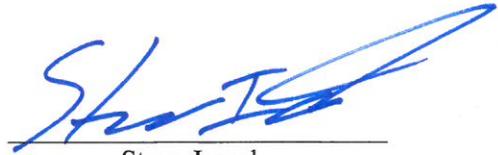
Suzan DelBene  
Member of Congress



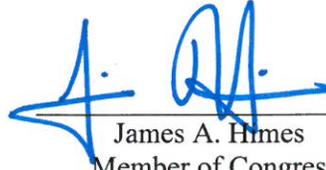
Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



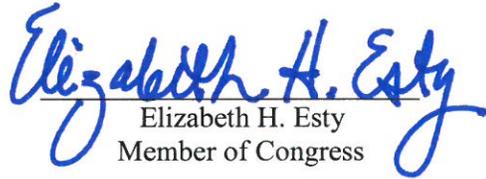
Marcia Fudge  
Member of Congress



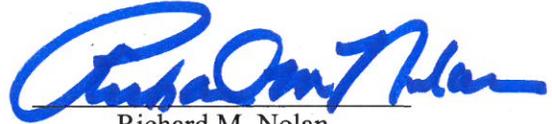
Steve Israel  
Member of Congress



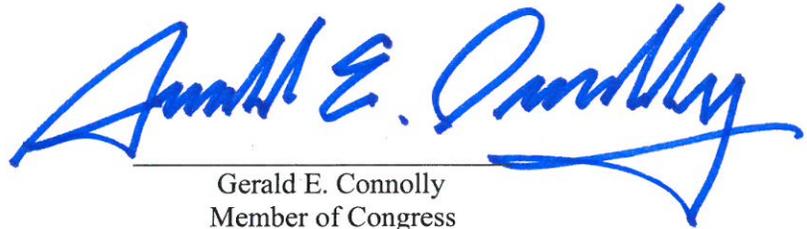
James A. Himes  
Member of Congress



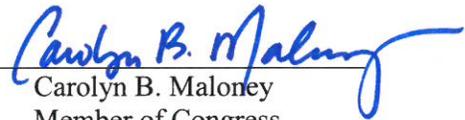
Elizabeth H. Esty  
Member of Congress



Richard M. Nolan  
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress



Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress



Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress