

From: NASADAD

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The National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors D.C. Update

Capitol Hill Happenings

House of Representatives passes over 60 bills related to the opioid crisis

Over the past two weeks, the House of Representatives has passed over 60 pieces of legislation that aim to address the opioid crisis. The bills culminated in the passage of the legislative package "Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment (SUPPORT) for Patients and Communities Act" (H.R. 6). The provisions included in H.R. 6 cover a wide array of issues, such as:

- **IMD CARE Act:** partially repeals the Institutions for Mental Diseases (IMD) exclusion in order to provide Medicaid payments for inpatient opioid addiction treatment for individuals for up to 30 days in facilities with more than 16 beds;
- **Overdose Prevention and Patient Safety Act:** amends 42 CFR Part 2, which governs patient confidentiality, to more closely align it with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA);
- **Ensuring Access to Quality Sober Living Act:** authorizes the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to develop, publish, and disseminate best practices for operating recovery housing;
- **Substance Use Disorder Workforce Loan Repayment Act:** authorizes a loan repayment program within the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for substance use disorder treatment providers;
- **Assisting States' Implementation of Plans of Safe Care Act:** requires the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to provide States with enhanced guidance to support the implementation of their "plan of safe care" that are required under the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA);
- **Comprehensive Opioid Recovery Centers Act:** authorizes the Secretary of HHS to award grants to providers to operate Comprehensive Opioid Recovery Centers (CORCs) that



will offer a range of services, such as intake, residential rehabilitation, recovery housing, job training, onsite pharmacy, toxicology services, and more; and

- **Preventing Overdoses While in Emergency Rooms (POWER) Act:** provides resources for hospitals to develop protocols on discharging patients who have experienced an opioid overdose, including connecting them with peer-support specialists.

Later this summer, the Senate's opioid package, the [Opioid Crisis Response Act of 2018 \(S. 2680\)](#) is expected to be considered on the Senate floor, along with the Judiciary and Finance Committees' opioid-related legislation.

Read the House Energy and Commerce Committee's overview of the bills that passed the House as part of H.R. 6 [here](#).