

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 27, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman, Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, and Education
House Appropriations Committee
2413 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, and Education
House Appropriations Committee
2207 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole,

Thank you for your continued leadership on issues related to substance use disorders, including the opioid crisis, especially during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. As you consider fiscal year 2023 spending priorities within the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, we are writing to request the highest possible funding level for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), given its critical role in leading substance use efforts at the national level. In particular, increased funding for SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT), Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), and Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant will help ensure that more Americans receive the prevention, treatment, and recovery services they need.

Substance use disorders are a significant public health problem in the United States. The latest National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) found that in 2020, 59.3 million Americans were currently using illicit drugs, and 17.7 million reported current heavy alcohol use. The opioid crisis continues to be the primary driver of drug-related deaths in the U.S., with nearly 75,673 of the 100,306 overdose deaths in the past year attributed to heroin, prescription drugs, and synthetic opioids like fentanyl. Additionally, tobacco and alcohol use remain some of the top causes of preventable death in the United States, totaling 480,000 and 95,000 annual deaths, respectively. Finally, rates of overdose deaths from psychostimulants, including methamphetamine, has been on the rise. Over 16,000 Americans died from an overdose involving psychostimulants in 2019, representing a five-fold increase from 2009 to 2019. One major factor that contributes to these death rates is that only 6.5% of individuals who need care actually receive treatment at a specialty facility.

SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) improves health through evidence-based prevention approaches. The largest program within CSAP is the Strategic Prevention Framework-Partnerships for Success (SPF-PFS) grant program. The SPF-PFS grant program is intended to prevent the onset and reduce the progression of substance misuse and its related problems while strengthening prevention capacity and infrastructure at the state, tribal, and

community levels. The program has helped prevent and reduce consequences of underage drinking and prescription drug misuse among 12-20-year-old youth, which is important for preventing substance use later in life.

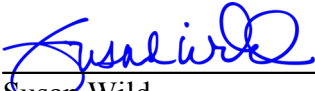
The Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) within SAMHSA promotes community-based substance use disorder treatment and recovery services for individuals and families in every community. CSAT provides national leadership to improve access, reduce barriers, and promote high quality, effective treatment, and recovery services. CSAT's recovery-specific programs increase the prevalence and quality of long-term recovery support. CSAT's programs for pregnant and postpartum women (PPW) expand family-centered services for women struggling with substance use, ensuring that addiction is treated as a family disease, and allowing mothers to bring their children into treatment with them. SAMHSA's Targeted Capacity Expansion (TCE) program aims to develop and implement targeted strategies for substance use disorder treatment provision to address a specific population or area of focus. Ongoing investment in this program enables SAMHSA to develop grant opportunities that address unmet needs and underserved populations.

We are grateful for the critical investment of \$1.65 billion in supplemental funding for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant in FY 2021 and the \$1.5 billion in supplemental funding included in the American Rescue Plan. SAMHSA's SAPT Block Grant gives states the flexibility to address the most pressing substance use issues within their state lines, ultimately helping those who can't otherwise access treatment get the help that they need. These supplemental funds are allowing states to effectively and efficiently address the increased rates of substance use and addiction resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Subcommittee has made important investments to address the opioid crisis over the past several years through the State Targeted Response (STR) and State Opioid Response (SOR) grant programs within SAMHSA. We recognize that much more remains to help reduce opioid misuse, addiction, and overdose deaths. However, data show that other substances—such as alcohol, stimulants, and tobacco—are presenting distinct challenges across the country. We hope that over time, opioid-specific resources for states are transitioned to the SAPT Block Grant, as this program affords states the opportunity to target resources based on the substance use issues they are facing as opposed to pre-ordained, drug-specific spending requirements.

We urge you to provide the highest possible funding level for SAMHSA in FY 2023. Programs administered by SAMHSA play a critical role in ensuring that Americans get the substance use services that they need, and increased investments in SAMHSA will ultimately lead to more lives saved, and a healthier population, especially as the nation recovers from the coronavirus pandemic.

Sincerely,



Susan Wild
Member of Congress



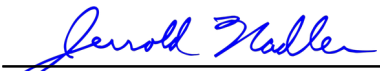
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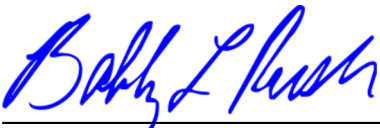
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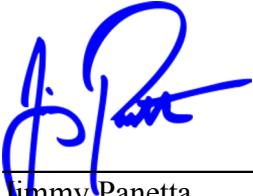
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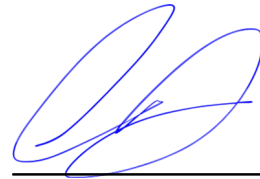
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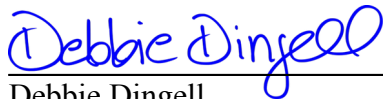
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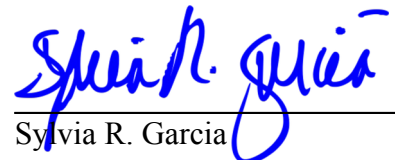
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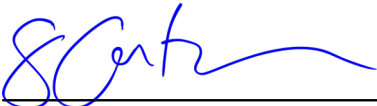
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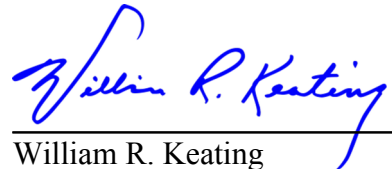
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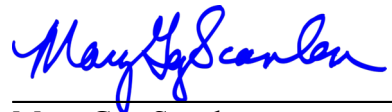
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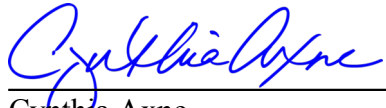
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