

June 28th, 2013

The Honorable Jack Kingston  
Chair, House Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Labor/HHS/Education  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member, House Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Labor/HHS/Education  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Harkin  
Chair, Senate Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Labor/HHS/Education  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jerry Moran  
Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Labor/HHS/Education  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Kingston, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Moran:

We appreciate the leadership that you have taken on the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant, which is administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Due to your leadership the SAPT Block Grant received a \$17 million increase in FY 2012. Unfortunately, the Administration redirected or tapped \$21 million from the SAPT Block Grant which resulted in a \$4 million decrease. In addition, as a result of the across-the-board cuts made by sequestration, the SAPT Block Grant was reduced by \$90 million in FY 2013. We are writing to urge you to restore the SAPT Block Grant to at least the FY 2012 appropriated level and support an increase of \$50 million above the FY 2012 level within the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies FY 2014 Appropriations Bill.

There is tremendous unmet need for addiction prevention, treatment and recovery services. According to SAMHSA's most recent National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), 21.5 million Americans aged 12 or older needed treatment for an alcohol or illicit drug problem in 2011. During the same year, only 2.3 million received treatment for a problem related to the use of alcohol or illicit drugs at a specialty facility. As a result, 19.2 million people needed but did not receive services in 2011 in a specialty facility. Meanwhile, funding for the SAPT Block Grant has sustained significant reductions, including a cut of \$90 million in FY 2013. As mentioned above, this is in addition to a \$4 million reduction in FY 2012 as a result of the Administration redirecting funds from the program for an evaluation "tap." This reduced funding for the SAPT Block Grant, coupled with dwindling investments in substance abuse prevention programs (a 50 percent decrease in just 8 years (FY 2005-2013), places added pressure on underfunded systems, particularly criminal justice and health systems. According to a survey we conducted of our members, sequestration will likely result in the following:

- A reduction in capacity at all levels of services: outpatient care, detox, crisis stabilization, prevention, early intervention activities, and services to women, children, and veterans
- Fewer people may be able to access services for prescription drug abuse; a reduction could result in an increase in drug-related deaths
- Underage drinking is at a *historic low* according to National Institute on Drug Abuse's (NIDA) Monitoring the Future survey. Reduced spending would likely contribute to reversing these gains

by reducing or eliminating critical youth programs and community coalitions. It would also make it difficult for States to address prescription drug abuse/misuse and an increase in marijuana use among youth

- Important outcome data collection and evaluation components would be eliminated making it more difficult to track drug trends, formulate strategies and evaluate programs

The SAPT Block Grant is a vital funding stream that is the only federal safety-net program distributed to all States and Territories for lifesaving alcohol and drug abuse prevention, treatment and recovery services. The program accounts for approximately 42 percent of funds spent by State substance abuse agencies. An investment in the SAPT Block Grant ensures that resources reach all States and territories in an effective and efficient manner. According to SAMHSA, in 2009 individuals receiving services from SAPT Block Grant funded programs demonstrated high abstinence rates at discharge from both illegal drug (75.7 percent) and alcohol (81.5 percent) use. An independent and comprehensive evaluation of the program released in June 2009 (see <http://www.tie.samhsa.gov>) found that the SAPT Block Grant ensures accountability through enhanced State-Federal communication, program monitoring and data reporting.

Twenty percent of the SAPT Block Grant is dedicated to fund much needed substance abuse prevention services. On average, the SAPT Block Grant set-aside represents the single largest source of prevention funding – 64 percent – for State substance abuse agencies across the country. In twenty-one States, the set-aside represents 75 percent or more of the agency's prevention budget.

Studies have shown funding the full continuum of drug and alcohol services can save the healthcare and criminal justice systems money. Every dollar invested in research-based substance use prevention programs, strategies and activities has the potential to save up to \$7 in areas such as substance abuse treatment and criminal justice system costs. In addition, for every dollar spent on addiction treatment programs there is a \$4 to \$7 reduction in the cost of drug-related crime. For those that went through a drug court or diversion program in Ohio from 2004-2005, only 3 percent were rearrested, which saved \$68 million in prison/jail costs. Treating addiction has also been shown to reduce medical bills per person by half. For instance, in Washington State SAPT Block Grant funded treatment resulted in a 55 percent decrease in hospitalizations at discharge.

According to two national surveys (Monitoring the Future and the National Survey on Drug Use and Health), marijuana use is increasing and perception of harm from marijuana amongst youth is decreasing. Nonmedical use of prescription medicine continues to be a significant problem across the country. In light of these issues, the nation needs to put more, not less, emphasis on effective substance use/abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery. An investment in the SAPT Block Grant is an investment in public health and public safety.

Please support funding for the SAPT Block Grant in FY 2014.

Sincerely,

## **National Organizations**

American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence, Inc (AATOD)

American Probation and Parole Association (APPA)

American Psychiatric Association (APA)

Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA)

Council on Substance Abuse – NCADD (COSA-NCADD)

CSH

EPIC- Every Person Influences Children, Inc.

Faces & Voices of Recovery

Federation of Organizations

International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium (IC&RC)

International Community Corrections Association (ICCA)

The Jewish Federations of North America

Legal Action Center (LAC)

LifeRing

Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA)

National Alcohol Beverage Control Association (NABCA)

National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse (NAPAFASA)

National Association for Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors (NAADAC)

National Association for Children of Alcoholics (NACoA)

National Association of Counties (NACo)

National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP)

National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO)

National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD)

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc. (NCADD)

National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA)

National HIRE Network

Odyssey House, Inc.

The Partnership at Drugfree.org

Phoenix House

State Associations of Addiction Services (SAAS)

Treatment Communities of America (TCA)

### **State and Local Organizations**

#### **Alabama**

Council on Substance Abuse- NCADD

Northwest Alabama Mental Health Center

#### **Alaska**

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence- Juneau

#### **Arizona**

Casa de Amigas

Child and Family Resources, Inc.

Compass Health Care

Crossroads, Inc.

Little Colorado Behavioral Health Centers

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence- Phoenix

Old Pueblo Community Services

## **California**

A New PATH (Parents for Addiction Treatment & Healing)

Behavioral Health Services, Inc. / National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependency of the South Bay Area

California Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors

California Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program, Inc.

California Drug Counseling

Council on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse

County Alcohol & Drug Program Administrators Association of California

Magna Systems, Incorporated

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of E. San Gabriel & Pomona Valley

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence- Long Beach Area

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence- Orange County

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence- Sacramento County

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence- San Diego

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of the San Fernando

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence- Tulare County

National Council on Alcoholism and Other Drug Addictions- Bay Area

Pandora's Box Productions

Pasadena Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependency

Thunder Road Adolescent Treatment Centers

## **Colorado**

Advocates for Recovery

Centennial Mental Health Center, Inc.

Colorado Mental Wellness Network

Ideas Directed at Eliminating Abuse (IDEA) Forum, Inc.

Peer Assistance Services, Inc.

Signal Behavior Health Network

### **Connecticut**

Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery (CCAR)

Midwestern Connecticut Council on Alcoholism

New Life Houses

### **District of Columbia**

DC Recovery Community Alliance

### **Florida**

Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association

Florida Association of Counties

### **Illinois**

Healthcare Alternative Services (HAS)

### **Indiana**

Alcohol & Addictions Resource Center

Indiana Addictions Issues Coalition

### **Iowa**

Employee & Family Resources

### **Kansas**

Kansas Association of Addiction Professionals

### **Kentucky**

PAR-People Advocating Recovery

**Louisiana**

Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council for South Louisiana

The Council on Alcohol & Drug Abuse for Greater New Orleans

Council on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse of Northwest Louisiana

O'Brien House Alcohol and Drug Prevention Services

**Maryland**

Johns Hopkins Hospital Broadway Center for Addiction

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Maryland Chapter

**Massachusetts**

Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention

Association for Behavioral Healthcare of Massachusetts

High Point Treatment Center (HPTC)

Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery (MOAR)

**Michigan**

Community Healing Centers

Harbor Hall, Inc.

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence- Greater Detroit Area

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of Michigan

NCA/Lansing Regional Area, Inc.

Recovery Network, Inc.

Self Help Addiction Rehabilitation, Inc.

STONEHOUSE, Inc.

Ten 16 Recovery Network

**Minnesota**

Minnesota Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

Southern Minnesota Recovery Connection

**Mississippi**

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of Central Mississippi

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of Northeast Mississippi

Region One Mental Health Center

**Missouri**

First Call NCADD Alcohol/Drug Prevention & Recovery

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence- St. Louis Area

Swope Health Services

**Montana**

Montana Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors (MAADAC) (MT)

**Nebraska**

The Central Nebraska Council on Alcoholism and Addictions, Inc.

**Nevada**

Join Together Northern Nevada

**New Hampshire**

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence- Greater Manchester

**New Mexico**

Hands Across Cultures (HACC)

**New Jersey**



Atlantic Prevention Resources, Inc.

Camden County Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, Inc.

Community Prevention Resources of Warren County, Inc.

Morris County Prevention is Key, Inc.

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of Hudson County, Inc.

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of Middlesex County

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence- New Jersey

New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc.

Prevention Plus of Burlington County, Inc.

## **New York**

Acacia Network

Addiction Center of Broome County, Inc.

The Addictions Care Center of Albany, Inc.

Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council of Delaware County, Inc.

Alcohol and Substance Abuse Council of Jefferson County, Inc.

Alcoholism & Drug Abuse Council of Orange County

Allegany Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, Inc.

Brookhaven Memorial Hospital Medical Center's Behavioral Health Services Program

Camelot of Staten Island, Inc.

Center for Family Life and Recovery, Inc.

Central New York Alcohol & Drug Association

Chautauqua Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Council, Inc.

Community Health Action of Staten Island

Council on Addiction Prevention and Education of Dutchess County, Inc.

Council on Addiction Recovery Services, Inc.

Council on Addictions of New York State

Council on Alcoholism and Addictions of the Finger Lakes

Council on Alcoholism and Addictions of the Finger Lakes

The Council on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse of Sullivan County, Inc. /Recovery Center

EAC Network

Erie County Council for the Prevention of Alcohol and Substance Abuse

Family Service League

Finger Lakes Addictions Counseling & Referral Agency, Inc.

HFM Prevention Council

Horizon Health Services

Hurther Doyle Memorial Insitute, Inc.

Leaf Council on Alcoholism/Addictions

Long Island Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc.

Long Island Recovery Association

Madison County Council on Alcoholism & Substance Abuse, Inc.

Mid-Hudson Addiction Recovery Centers, Inc.

Mountain View Prevention Services, Inc.

Narco Freedom, Inc.

National Alliance for Medication Assisted Recovery

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence- Rochester Area

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence/Westchester

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependencies/Putnam  
New York Association of Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Providers  
New York State Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare  
Northpointe Council, Inc.  
Outreach  
Prevention Network OCAA  
Region II Consortium of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services  
Rockland Council on Alcoholism and Other Drug Dependence, Inc.  
Seaway Valley Prevention Council  
Student Assistance Services Corporation  
Tackling Youth Substance Abuse Initiative  
Therapeutic Community Association of New York

**North Carolina**

Alcohol/Drug Abuse Council of North Carolina  
Anuvia Prevention and Recovery Center  
Burke Council on Alcoholism and Chemical Dependency, Inc.  
North Carolina Association of County Commissioners  
Tia Hart Community Recovery Program, Inc.  
Willow Tree Medical Concepts

**Ohio**

Alcoholism Council of the Cincinnati Area, NCADD  
County Commissioners' Association of Ohio  
Recovery Resources, Inc.

## **Oklahoma**

Oklahoma Drug & Alcohol Professional Counselor Association

Oklahoma Citizen Advocates for Alcohol Recovery & Treatment Association (OCARTA)

## **Pennsylvania**

The Council of Southeast Pennsylvania, Inc.

Drug and Alcohol Service Providers Organization of Pennsylvania

Good Friends, Inc.

The Miracle Group, Inc.

Pennsylvania Recovery Organizations Alliance (PRO-A)

The RASE (Recovery – Advocacy – Service – Empowerment) Project

Recovery Revolution Steps for Healthy Living

## **Rhode Island**

NRI Community Services

Rhode Island Council on Alcoholism and Other Drug Dependence

## **South Carolina**

Behavioral Health Services Association of South Carolina, Inc.

Faces and Voices of Recovery Pee Dee

## **Tennessee**

E. M. Jellinek Center

Jackson Area Council on Alcoholism (JACOA)

Memphis Recovery Centers

Samaritan Recovery Community, Inc.

Synergy Treatment Centers

Tennessee Association of Alcohol, Drug & other Addiction Services

**Texas**

Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council for the Concho Valley

Association of Persons Affected by Addiction

The Coalition of Behavioral Health Services

The Council on Alcohol and Drugs Houston

Recovery Resource Council

**Utah**

Utah Recovery Support Advocates

**Vermont**

Turning Point Center of Central Vermont

**U.S. Virgin Islands**

Council on Alcoholism & Drug Dependence St. Thomas, St. John

**Virginia**

McShin Foundation

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence- Richmond

Recovery at St. John's

Substance Abuse and Addiction Recovery Alliance of Virginia

**Washington**

Pioneer Human Services

Trilogy Recovery Community

Washington Association of Alcoholism & Addiction Programs

**Wisconsin**

Addiction Resource Council, Inc.

Focus on Community

Hope Council on Alcohol & Other Drug Abuse

Impact Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services

New Horizons North

**Wyoming**

Recover Wyoming (WY)