



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

April 26, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole,

Thank you for your leadership in addressing our nation's substance use epidemics. As you consider fiscal year 2023 spending priorities within the bill funding the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and related agencies, we are writing to request robust funding for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant, which is the cornerstone of States' substance use treatment, prevention, and recovery systems. The annual appropriation for the SAPT Block Grant in FY 2022 was \$1.908 billion.

A sustainable strategy designed to address the substance use crisis in America must include a strong commitment to the SAPT Block Grant. In 2020, 59.3 million Americans used illicit drugs. Specifically, 49.6 million used marijuana, 10.3 million used stimulants, 9.5 million used opioids, and 9.3 million used prescription pain relievers. While the ongoing opioid epidemic remains a major public health concern, other substance use issues, such as methamphetamine addiction, polysubstance use, alcohol misuse, marijuana use, and e-cigarette use require increased attention and resources. In 2021, 11.3 percent (1.72 million) of high school students and 2.8 percent (320,000) of middle school students reported using e-cigarettes. Of those Americans who drink alcohol, 44.4 percent of them (61.6 million) binge drink, and alcohol use continues to contribute to more than 95,000 alcohol-related deaths each year. It is clear more must be done to support effective treatment and prevention programs.

The COVID-19 pandemic has further impacted individuals struggling with or at risk for substance use disorders. With increased psychosocial risk factors for substance use, such as isolation and stress, as well as decreased access to prevention, treatment, and recovery support services, there have been widespread increases in substance use. From April 2020-April 2021, overdose deaths from fentanyl, cocaine, methamphetamine, and semi-synthetic opioids (such as prescription pain medication) increased. This led to a 28.5% increase in overdose deaths that resulted in 100,306 lives lost. The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSAA) and the American Rescue Plan included critical

pandemic-related funding investments for the SAPT Block Grant to address the overdose crisis and we are grateful for those supplemental funds.

The SAPT Block Grant, distributed by formula, allows all States and Territories to support services that address any substance use issues they face within their own jurisdiction, resulting in exceptional outcomes. In FY 2021, more than 2 million Americans were admitted to SAPT funded treatment services. Of clients discharged from SAPT Block Grant-funded treatment programs, 50.3 percent were abstinent from drugs, 76.6 percent were abstinent from alcohol, 93 percent had no criminal justice involvement, and 90.9 percent had permanent housing.

A strong commitment to the SAPT Block Grant represents a strong commitment to primary prevention. In addition to treatment services, the SAPT Block Grant includes prevention funds that represent 68% percent of primary prevention funding managed by State substance use agencies. In some States, the SAPT Block Grant investment accounts for 100 percent of substance use prevention dollars.

We urge you to provide robust funding for the SAPT Block Grant as work progresses on FY 2023 appropriations. Sensible investments in the SAPT Block Grant will ultimately save money while strengthening communities, keeping families together, and most importantly saving lives.

Sincerely,



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Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



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Brian K. Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress



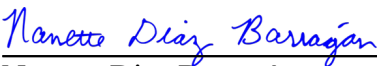
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Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
Member of Congress



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Cynthia Axne  
Member of Congress



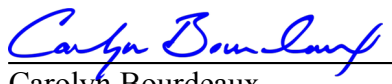
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Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress

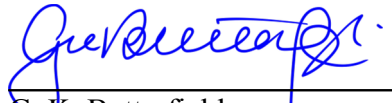


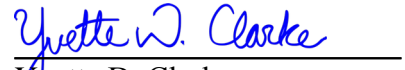
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Lisa Blunt Rochester  
Member of Congress

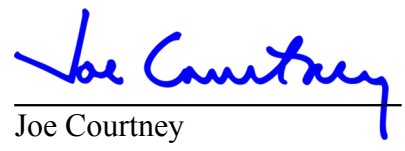
  
Carolyn Bourdeaux  
Member of Congress

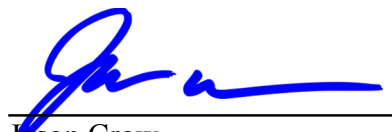
  
Shontel M. Brown  
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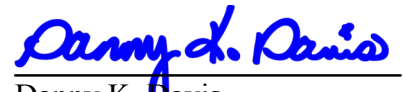
  
G. K. Butterfield  
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Yvette D. Clarke  
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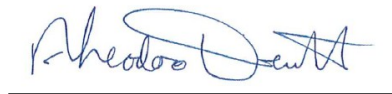
  
Joe Courtney  
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Jason Crow  
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Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress

  
Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress

  
Antonio Delgado  
Member of Congress

  
Ted Deutch  
Member of Congress

  
Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



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Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



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Mike Doyle  
Member of Congress



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Neal P. Dunn, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



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Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress



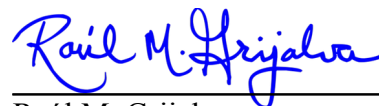
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Jenniffer González-Colón  
Member of Congress



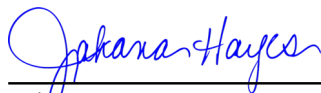
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Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress



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Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



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Jahana Hayes  
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Daniel T. Kildee  
Member of Congress



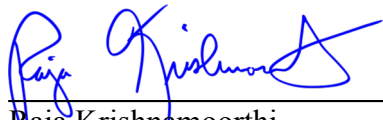
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Andy Kim  
Member of Congress



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Adam Kinzinger  
Member of Congress



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Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress



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Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress



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Conor Lamb  
Member of Congress



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Al Lawson  
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Mike Levin  
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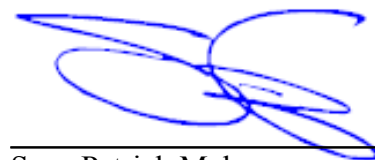
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Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



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Tom Malinowski  
Member of Congress



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Sean Patrick Maloney  
Member of Congress



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Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



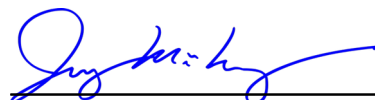
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Lucy McBath  
Member of Congress



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A. Donald McEachin  
Member of Congress



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Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress



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Joseph D. Morelle  
Member of Congress



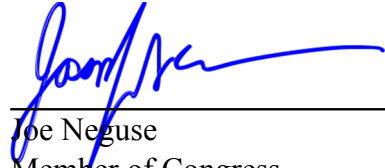
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Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



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Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress



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Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress



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Donald Norcross  
Member of Congress



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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



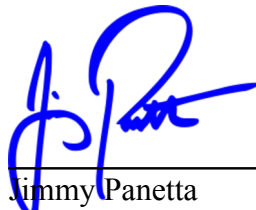
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Tom O'Halleran  
Member of Congress



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Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress



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Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



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Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress



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Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress



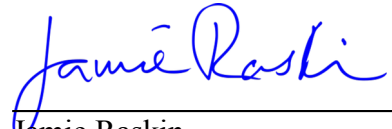
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Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



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Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



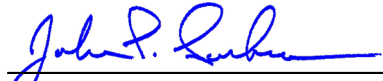
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Raul Ruiz, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Gregorio Kilili Camacho  
Sablan  
Member of Congress



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John P. Sarbanes  
Member of Congress



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Mary Gay Scanlon  
Member of Congress



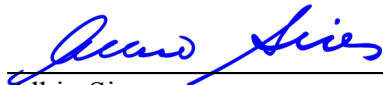
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Kim Schrier, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress



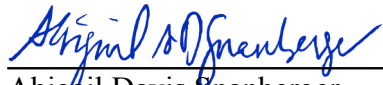
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Albio Sires  
Member of Congress



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Elissa Slotkin  
Member of Congress



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Abigail Davis Spanberger  
Member of Congress



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Greg Stanton  
Member of Congress



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Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress



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Thomas R. Suozzi  
Member of Congress



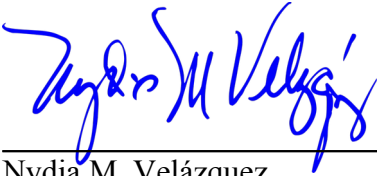
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Glenn "GT" Thompson  
Member of Congress



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Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress



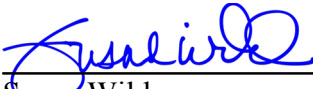
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Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



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Peter Welch  
Member of Congress



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Susan Wild  
Member of Congress



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Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress



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John Yarmuth  
Member of Congress