

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 22, 2023

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education, and
Related Agencies Related Agencies
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education, and
Related Agencies Related Agencies
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro,

Thank you for your leadership in addressing our nation's substance use epidemics. As you consider Fiscal Year 2024 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 Use Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Services (SUPTRS) Block Grant, which is the cornerstone of States' substance use treatment, prevention, and recovery systems. The annual appropriation for the SUPTRS Block Grant in Fiscal Year 2023 was \$2.008 billion.

A sustainable strategy designed to address the substance use crisis in America must include a strong commitment to the SUPTRS Block Grant. In 2021, 61.2 million Americans aged 12 or older used illicit drugs. Specifically, 52.5 million used marijuana, 9.2 million used opioids (includes use of heroin and mis-use of pain relievers), and 9.2 million used stimulants (includes use of cocaine and misuse of prescription stimulants). While the ongoing opioid epidemic remains a major public health concern, other substance use issues, such as polysubstance use, alcohol misuse, and e-cigarette use require increased attention and resources. Among people ages 12 to 20, 11 percent (4.3 million people) used a tobacco product or other vaping device to vape nicotine. Of those Americans who drink alcohol, 45.1 percent of them (60 million) binge drink, and alcohol use continues to contribute to more than 140,000 alcohol-related deaths each year. It is clear more must be done to support effective prevention, treatment and recovery programs.

The sheer volume of death linked to the overdose epidemic is staggering. Since 1999, we have lost close to 1 million (932,000) Americans. From September 2021 to September 2022, overdose deaths from fentanyl, cocaine, methamphetamine, and semi-synthetic opioids (such as prescription pain medication) increased – leading to the deaths of 100,521 Americans – with the majority of these deaths (68,082) linked to synthetic opioids such as fentanyl. Given these challenges, we are grateful for the Committee's recent investments in the SUPTRS Block Grant that helps bolster our collective response to the crisis.

The SUPTRS 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 Fiscal Year 2022, more than 2 million Americans were admitted to

SUPTRS funded treatment services. Of clients discharged from SUPTRS Block Grant-funded treatment programs, 51.14 percent were abstinent from drugs, 77.12 percent were abstinent from alcohol, 97.47 percent had no criminal justice involvement in the prior 30 days, and 87.87 percent had permanent housing.

In addition, a strong commitment to the SUPTRS Block Grant represents a strong commitment to primary prevention. In addition to treatment services, the SUPTRS Block Grant includes prevention funds that represent a large share of primary prevention funding managed by State substance use agencies. According to Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), “some states rely solely on the 20 percent set-aside to fund their prevention systems while others use the funds to target gaps and enhance existing program efforts.”

We urge you to provide robust funding for the SUPTRS Block Grant as work progresses on Fiscal Year 2024 appropriations. Sensible investments in the SUPTRS Block Grant will ultimately save money while strengthening communities, keeping families together, and most importantly saving lives.

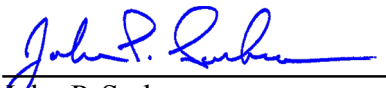
Sincerely,



Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



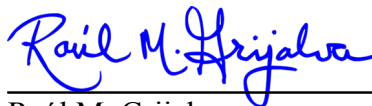
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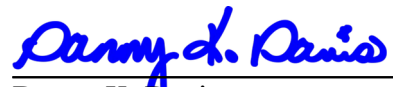
Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



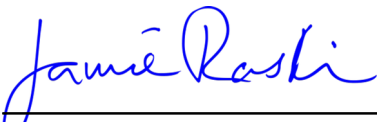
Doris Matsui
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Jared Moskowitz
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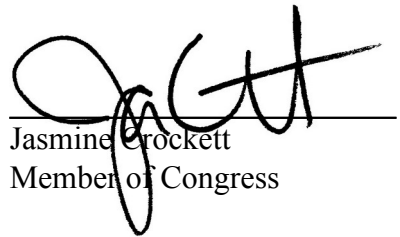
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



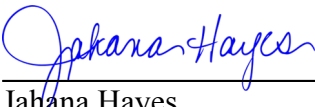
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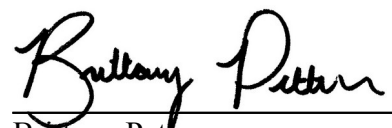
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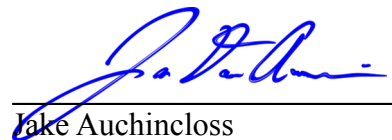
Wiley Nickel
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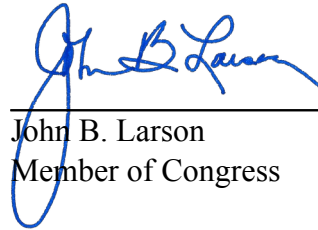
Emanuel Cleaver, II
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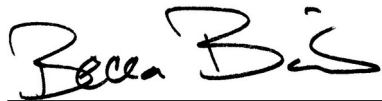
André Carson
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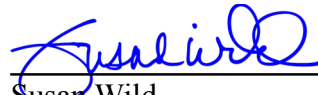
Greg Stanton
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Becca Balint
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Susan Wild
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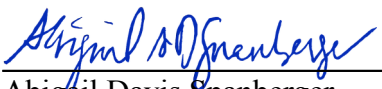
Madeleine Dean
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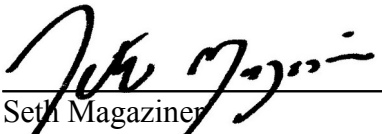
Shontel M. Brown
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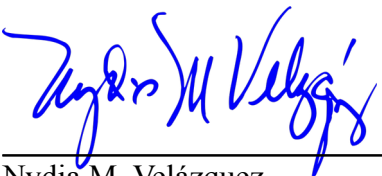
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Seth Magaziner
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Donald Norcross
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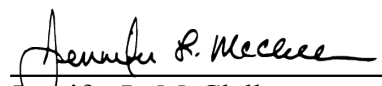
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Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress
, Committee on Ways and
Means



Jennifer L. McClellan
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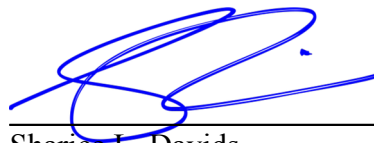
Stacey E. Plaskett
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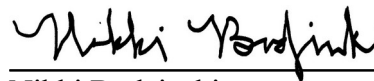
Marilyn Strickland
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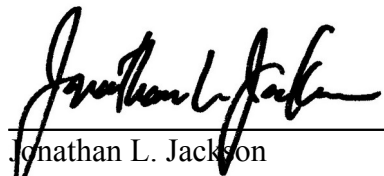
Ilhan Omar
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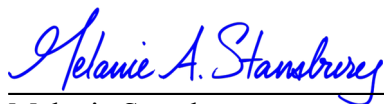
Nikki Budzinski
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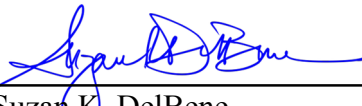
Joe Neguse
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Veronica Escobar
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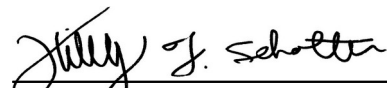
Suzan K. DelBene
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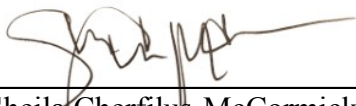
Raul Ruiz, M.D.
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Raja Krishnamoorthi
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Hillary J. Scholten
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Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
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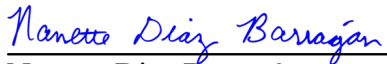
Patrick Ryan
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Ruben Gallego
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Dan Goldman
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Nanette Diaz Barragán
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Yvette D. Clarke
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Emilia Strong Sykes
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Eleanor Holmes Norton
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