

April 28, 2021

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*Executive Director*  
Robert I. L. Morrison

Rep. David Joyce  
2065 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Derek Kilmer  
2059 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Joyce and Congressman Kilmer,

On behalf of the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD), I would like to thank you for sponsoring the Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Pandemic Relief Act (H.R. 654). NASADAD's members are the State alcohol and drug agency directors who oversee the publicly funded prevention, treatment, and recovery service systems. These State agencies work closely with the community coalitions that utilize DFC funds to identify and respond to local substance use problems.

We are writing to express our support for the DFC Pandemic Relief Act. As you know, the DFC grant program requires a dollar-for-dollar match from grantees for every federal dollar (up to \$125,000 per year). Your bill serves as an important tool to offer relief to DFC grantees who are unable to meet this matching requirement because of issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to stay-at-home orders that impacted volunteer involvement; school and community center closures; and reduced contributions from local businesses, many coalitions across the country have not been able to meet their match requirement.

Some coalitions were able to meet the match requirement through the provision of virtual coalition activities, meetings, events, and learning opportunities. However, this has only been possible in communities with sufficient access to technology and broadband. Many rural and other under-resourced coalitions have not been able to proceed with virtual activities. These grantees are at risk of being deemed out of compliance with the terms of their grants.

Your bill would benefit not only current grantees, but also DFC grantees that ended their grants during FY 2020. That cohort of grantees would benefit from retroactive relief so that they are not out of compliance. H.R. 654 would ensure that these grantees would not be held liable for having to pay back already expended funds that they were not able to match.

The DFC Pandemic Relief Act is urgently needed to give the DFC program Administrator authority to provide relief to DFC grantees on a case-by-case basis and reduce any undue financial hardships for community coalitions. We thank you for your leadership on this issue, and look forward to working with you as the legislative process moves forward.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if NASADAD can be of assistance. I can be reached at [rmorrison@nasadad.org](mailto:rmorrison@nasadad.org) or 703-380-6813.

Sincerely,



Robert Morrison  
Executive Director  
National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD)