

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 29, 2024

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor
Health and Human Services, Education, and
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
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 behavioral health crisis. As you consider Fiscal Year 2025 spending priorities within the bill funding the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, we are writing to request at least \$1,787,397,125 for the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and at least \$639,966,850 for the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) within the total provided for the National Institutes of Health.

As you know, the United States is facing a behavioral health crisis. In 2022 alone, nearly 17% of the population aged 12 and older battled a substance use disorder within the year¹. Accidental drug overdose is a leading cause of death amongst Americans under the age of 45². In 2023, 112,000 people died from a drug overdose equating to one person every 5 minutes³. Fatalities related to alcohol use in the United States have also continued to rise with 1 in 8 deaths from 2015-2019 being related to excessive alcohol consumption⁴. Nearly 30 million Americans reported an alcohol use disorder in 2023⁵. Given these statistics, it is crucial that we continue to fund programs that conduct valuable research into prevention, treatment and recovery from substance use disorders.

NIDA advances the science on drug and alcohol use and addiction and promulgates that knowledge in order to improve individual and public health. NIDA is the world's largest funder of biomedical research on drug use and addiction. They conduct a wide range of population-level research to address key questions about drug use and health. NIDA supports implementation research on how to effectively deploy proven prevention, treatment, and recovery approaches in different settings to reach people at highest risk of SUD and poor outcomes. For example, the

¹ [NCDAS: Substance Abuse and Addiction Statistics \[2023\] \(drugabusestatistics.org\)](https://www.drugabusestatistics.org/)

² Ibid.

³ [In 2023 fentanyl overdoses ravaged the US and fueled a new culture war fight - OPB](#)

⁴ [More people in the U.S. die of alcohol-related causes than from opioids and other drugs. Psychologists are working to change that \(apa.org\)](#)

⁵ [Alcohol Use Disorder \(AUD\) in the United States: Age Groups and Demographic Characteristics | National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism \(NIAAA\) \(nih.gov\)](#)

HEALing Communities Study aims to reduce rates of opioid use disorders and overdose in nearly 70 communities through an integrated model of evidence-based care that includes increasing access to medications for opioid use disorders, such as methadone, buprenorphine (BUP), and naltrexone.

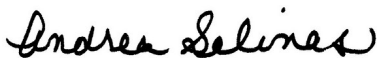
NIDA funds the Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development (ABCD) study which has been collecting brain imaging, genetic, and other data from nearly 12,000 young people, starting at ages 9-10. In addition, the HEALthy Brain and Child Development (HBCD) study, funded in part by the HEAL Initiative, will collect similar data from thousands of children starting in the prenatal period through adolescence. These studies promise unprecedented insight into brain development and vulnerability to substance use disorders and mental illness.

NIAAA is a national leader in alcohol-related research including neuroscience and behavior as well as prevention, treatment and recovery. They coordinate work between research institutes and federal programs and promulgate key research findings to health care providers, policy makers and the public. In addition to research, NIAAA is dedicating resources to support the creation of practical tools to help educate practitioners regarding issues related to alcohol.

For example, NIAAA has developed and launched an evidence-based online resource known as the *Health Professionals Core Resource on Alcohol* that educates health care workers about alcohol, assists professionals with alcohol screening and interventions, and offers CEUs to help incentivize widespread use of the tool. Further, NIAAA has also released *Alcohol Screening and Brief Intervention for Youth: A Practitioner's Guide* in order to help health care professionals identify youth who are at risk for alcohol use, are using alcohol, or have an alcohol use disorder, and to intervene as appropriate.

With millions of Americans suffering from a substance use disorder, it is critical that we continue to fund research into the prevention of and treatment of substance use disorders. Research conducted by NIDA and NIAAA will help prevent many people from developing substance use disorder and help many more to overcome their addiction and get on the road to recovery.

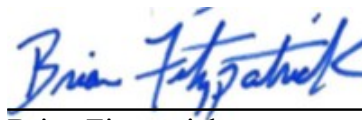
Sincerely,



Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

Grace F. Napolitano

Grace F. Napolitano
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