

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 30, 2024

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 2025 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. President Biden's fiscal year 2025 budget requests \$2,008,079,000 in funding for the SUPTRS Block Grant.

A sustainable strategy designed to address the substance use crisis in America must include a strong commitment to the SUPTRS Block Grant. In 2022, 70.3 million Americans aged 12 or older used illicit drugs in the past year. Specifically, 61.9 million used marijuana, 8.9 million used opioids (includes use of heroin and misuse of pain relievers), 4.3 million misused prescription stimulants, and 5.3 million used cocaine. 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 youth ages 12 to 17, 7.3 percent (1.9 million people) used a tobacco product or other vaping device to vape nicotine. Of those Americans who drink alcohol, 44.5 percent of them (61.2 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 more than 1 million people to a drug overdose. From September 2022 to September 2023, overdose deaths from fentanyl, cocaine, methamphetamine, and semi-synthetic opioids (such as prescription pain medication) increased – leading to the deaths of 105,879 Americans – with the majority of these deaths (80,318) linked to opioids. 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 the 12-month period ending in June 2022, more than 1.6 million people had been admitted to SUPTRS funded treatment services. Of clients discharged from SUPTRS Block Grant-funded treatment programs, 54.30 percent were abstinent from drugs, 78.54 percent were abstinent from alcohol, 95.08 percent had no arrests in the prior 30 days, and 89.34 percent had stable 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 2025 appropriations. Sensible investments in the SUPTRS Block Grant will ultimately save money while strengthening communities, keeping families together, and most importantly saving lives.

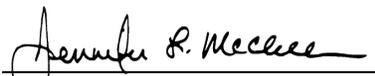
Sincerely,



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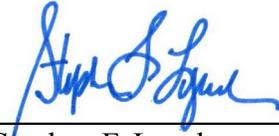
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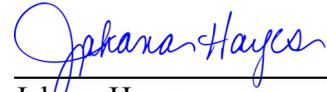
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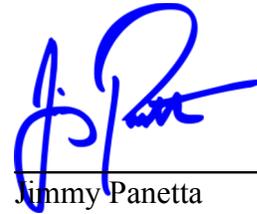
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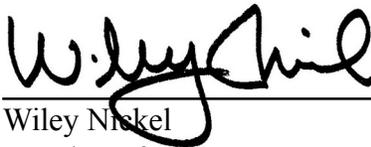
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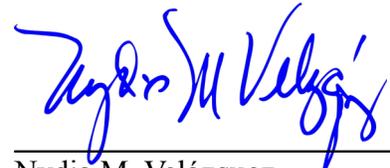
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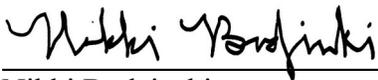
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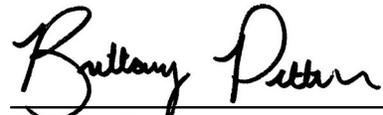
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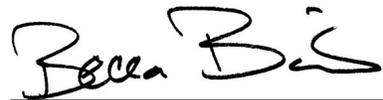
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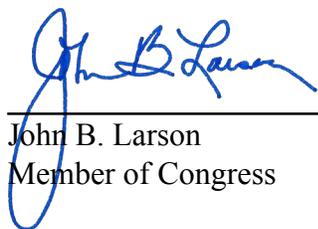
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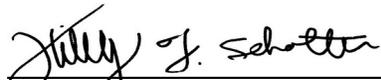
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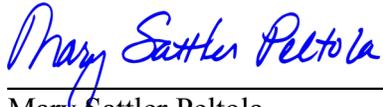
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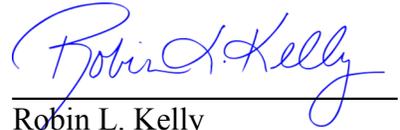
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