

April 11, 2018

The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings
2163 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Congressman Cummings and Senator Warren:

As Executive Director of the Washington/Baltimore High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, I am writing to register my support for The Comprehensive Addiction Resources Emergency Act of 2018. At a time when so many states and localities are suffering from the consequences of our nation's opioid epidemic, this legislation provides funding to support efficiently and effectively the much-needed services to the individuals and families suffering from substance use disorder (SUD).

Assigning responsibility to administer grants made possible through The Comprehensive Addiction Resources Emergency Act of 2018 to the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy helps ensure that grant awards will align with public health strategies, the National Drug Control Strategy, and President Trump's Initiative to Stop Opioid Abuse. Allowing multiple, contiguous counties to apply jointly for grant funding reflects Congressman Cummings' and Senator Warren's in-depth understanding of the nature of the opioid epidemic. Requiring the creation of a Planning Council and providing funding to support its work is a true "stroke of genius." The diversity of the representatives required to serve on the Planning Councils will bring communities together to strategize and plan how best to address their unique issues.

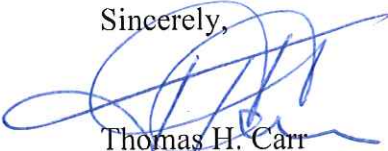
Law enforcement activities aimed at reducing the supply of illegal drugs and arresting those responsible for trafficking must continue. However, without sufficient funding to provide drug treatment, recovery, and prevention services, the demand for illegal drugs will continue to drive the marketplace. Over the long term, as this Act clearly recognizes, communities must offer effective drug education and prevention programs to our nation's youth to lessen the demand for illegal drugs. Far too often, drug education and prevention efforts have had a spotty success record and most have not been science-based. The Comprehensive Addiction Resources Emergency Act of 2018 provides remedies for this situation.

The untold numbers of Americans afflicted with SUD do not belong in jails or prisons merely because they are addicted to drugs. The Comprehensive Addiction Resources Emergency Act of

2018 recognizes the medical diagnosis of SUD and, as such, treats it as a disease. Those suffering from this disease need proven forms of treatment and, once successfully treated, need a road to recovery. SUD victims are never "healed." As with many other diseases, those who receive quality treatment are often fortunate enough to go into remission. Nonetheless, they are and will remain SUD patients. The Comprehensive Addiction Resources Emergency Act of 2018 offers communities funding to establish, implement, and maintain treatment and recovery services that are so very necessary to save lives.

More Americans are dying each year in greater numbers from drug overdoses than died during the entire Vietnam War. More Americans died last year from drug overdoses than died from car crashes and gunshot wounds combined. One in 10 American families has a family member who suffers from SUD. The plan forward that Congressman Cummings and Senator Warren provide through The Comprehensive Addiction Resources Emergency Act of 2018 seems to me to be the only sensible and responsible way to address this intolerable condition.

Sincerely,



Thomas H. Carr
Executive Director