

Date XX, 2025

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
The United States Senate
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
The United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
521 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
2267 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader Thune, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson, and Minority Leader Jeffries:

As the undersigned organizations, we write to express our strong support for the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Justice Grant Reauthorization Act of 2025 to extend the crucial Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Grant Program (COSSUP) to combat the opioid epidemic and improve evidence-based treatment and prevention of substance use disorders. COSSUP has maintained overwhelming bipartisan support since it was first enacted as part of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) of 2016 and when it was reauthorized as part of the Support for Patients and Communities Act (SUPPORT Act) of 2018.

We share Congress's dedication and commitment to addressing the addiction crisis through evidence-based solutions and the expansion of treatment services. According to a recent report from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), almost 48.5 million Americans aged 12 and older had a diagnosable substance use disorder in 2023, which is equivalent to more than 1 in 6 people.¹ These statistics demonstrate the devastating impacts on individuals, families, and communities across the nation, and it is imperative that our communities receive assistance in addressing the ongoing opioid epidemic.

COSSUP provides assistance to states, units of local government, and Indian tribal governments to develop, implement, or expand comprehensive efforts to identify, respond to, treat, and support those impacted by illicit opioids, stimulants, and other substances. COSSUP's emphasis on partnership and collaboration across the public health, behavioral health, and public safety sectors allows for effective community responses to the opioid crisis. Previous COSSUP funding

¹Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2024). Key substance use and mental health indicators in the United States: Results from the 2023 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (HHS Publication No. PEP24-07-021, NSDUH Series H-59). Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/report/2023-nsduh-annual-national-report>

has been used to help law enforcement agencies identify individuals in need of substance use and misuse treatment services and connect these individuals to treatment services. COSSUP funding has also helped develop programs that embed social services with law enforcement to respond to opioid overdoses where children are impacted rapidly, as well as programs that provide transitional or recovery housing as part of a comprehensive response strategy.² As COSSUP subrecipients serve varying geographic locations - primarily rural communities, mid-sized communities, and projects that stretch over multiple jurisdictions - COSSUP grantees select projects that best serve the needs of their community, including expanding reentry supports, increasing access to naloxone for communities and first responders, implementing Drug Courts, and expanding access to medication-assisted treatment for incarcerated individuals or other community members with a substance use disorder.

Key COSSUP features that would be extended include:

1. Promoting public safety and supporting access to treatment and recovery services in the criminal justice system.
2. Strengthening the collection and sharing of data across systems to understand and address the impact of illicit substance use and misuse.
3. Aligning and maximizing resources across systems and leveraging different program funding.
4. Preventing illicit substance use and misuse.

We are grateful for Congress's work to provide comprehensive responses to addiction and the growing opioid epidemic in the United States. We thank you for your leadership, and we respectfully urge you to advance the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Justice Grant Reauthorization Act of 2025 to continue addressing the substance use disorder and overdose epidemic.

Sincerely,

² Bureau of Justice Statistics. (2023). Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program (COSSUP). Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs. <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/cossup/about>