**Coalition to Stop Opioid Overdose Letter to the Editor Template**

*General Guidelines*

1. Every newspaper has different submission guidelines and requirements. These can include means of submission (email, online form, mail), length (most accept letters with a **maximum** of 150 words), and even style. Check the “Letters to the Editor” page on the newspaper you’re writing to. You can find a summary of these guidelines and requirements for the top 100 papers [here](http://www.ccmc.org/node/16179)
2. The letter you are writing should be offered as an ***exclusive*** when possible. Therefore, try to refrain from sending the same letter to multiple outlets at once. If your letter is not chosen by the editor of one paper, then you should submit it to another outlet.

*Template Letter Body*

[YOUR RETURN ADDRESS]

[YOUR RETURN ADDRESS]

[YOUR RETURN ADDRESS]

[YOUR EMAIL/PHONE NUMBER]

May 17, 2016

Dear Editor,

[INSERT STATE] saw a [insert relevant data from this [CDC link](http://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/data/statedeaths.html)] percent increase in deaths from drug overdose from 2013 to 2014. And more than 10 million Americans report misusing opioids. As an addiction medicine specialist[[1]](#footnote-1), I know the power of addiction to destroy lives and families.

The U.S. Congress, the Administration, public health agencies and a number of states have taken important initial steps, but we need to build on this progress and ensure that comprehensive legislation is passed and funded appropriately.

I urge everyone in [insert CITY] to contact [INSERT U.S. REPRESENTATIVE NAME/TITLE HERE FROM THIS [LINK](https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/map)] and encourage [him or her] to support comprehensive policies to combat the U.S. opioid epidemic. These include improving access to medication-assisted treatment for those who are addicted to opioids and expanding availability of naloxone in health care settings and beyond.

We will only stem the tide of this public health crisis by advancing meaningful legislative and regulatory policies.

[YOUR NAME]

[TITLE AFFILIATION]

*Example*

Dear Denver Post Editor,

Colorado saw a 5.2 percent increase in deaths from drug overdose from 2013 to 2014. And more than 10 million Americans report misusing opioids. As an addiction medicine specialist[[2]](#footnote-2), I know the power of addiction to destroy lives and families.

The U.S. Congress, the Administration, public health agencies and a number of states have taken important initial steps, but we need to build on this progress and ensure that comprehensive legislation is passed and funded appropriately.

I urge everyone in Denver to contact Rep. Diana DeGette and encourage her to support comprehensive policies to combat the U.S. opioid epidemic. These include improving access to medication-assisted treatment for those who are addicted to opioids and expanding availability of naloxone in health care settings and beyond.

We will only stem the tide of this public health crisis by advancing meaningful legislative and regulatory policies.

Lindsay Paul

The Colorado Society of Addiction Medicine

1. This can be replaced with your official ASAM title or other title/affiliation if you have one [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. This can be replaced with your official ASAM title or other title/affiliation if you have one [↑](#footnote-ref-2)