



Addiction Medicine: **Teach It. Standardize It. Cover It.**

- Bold, swift action is needed to address the addiction and opioid overdose crisis – a national public health emergency that takes dozens of lives every day.
- Policymakers should prioritize systemic changes to our addiction prevention, treatment, and recovery support infrastructure and expanded access to treatments that are proven to save lives.
- The **Comprehensive Addiction Resources Emergency (CARE) Act** will provide the resources needed now and over the next decade to treat addiction and the opioid overdose epidemic like the critical national public health emergency it is.

Addiction is a public health emergency that demands a comprehensive federal response. The CARE Act would provide critical funding and infrastructure that is proportionate to the size and scale of this epidemic. The CARE Act would help federal, state, local, and tribal entities to:

- **Teach addiction medicine** by allocating billions of dollars in funding to train health professionals in the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of substance use disorder (SUD).
- **Standardize addiction medicine** by directing the Department of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM), to develop model standards for the regulation of SUD treatment services based on the Levels of Care framework set forth by ASAM in 2013 or an equally strong set of standards.
- **Cover addiction medicine services** services by allocating funding to states, local governments, and other institutions to support SUD prevention, treatment, and recovery support programs and expanded access to evidence-based treatment.

^[1] In 2017, there were a record 70,237 drug overdose deaths in the United States, two-thirds of which have been linked to opioids.^[1] These figures rival the death toll during the peak of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the mid-1990s.

Limited policy changes and short-term investments are not enough to reverse the course of this epidemic. Addiction is a crisis. We need to address it in a comprehensive way.

How Members of Congress Can Help:

- ✔ Co-sponsor the **Comprehensive Addiction Resources Emergency (CARE) Act** (H.R. 2569/ S. 1365). This legislation will provide critical funding and resources now and over the next decade to strengthen our nation's addiction prevention, treatment, and recovery support infrastructure and expand access to evidence-based care.



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^[1] Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. "Key substance use and mental health indicators in the United States: Results from the 2017 National Survey on Drug Use and Health". September 2018.