

National Association for Behavioral Healthcare



Access. Care. Recovery.

26 September 2023

Rep. Brett Guthrie (R-Ky.), House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee Chair, Sponsor
Rep. Ann McLane Kuster (D-N.H.), Co-Sponsor
House Energy & Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

Submitted Electronically

Dear Reps. Guthrie, Kuster, and House Energy and Commerce Committee Members:

The National Association for Behavioral Healthcare (NABH) strongly supports the bipartisan *SUPPORT Act Reauthorization of 2023*. As with the original *SUPPORT Act of 2018* – which provided the largest congressional investment in overdose prevention – we view the 2023 bill as must-pass legislation needed to sustain existing prevention efforts and improve the nation’s overall behavioral healthcare infrastructure.

NABH members provide the full continuum of behavioral healthcare services, including treating children, adolescents, adults, and older adults with mental health and substance use disorders in inpatient behavioral healthcare hospitals and units, residential treatment facilities, partial hospitalization and intensive outpatient program, medication-assisted treatment centers, specialty outpatient behavioral healthcare programs, and recovery support services in 49 states and Washington, D.C.

Unfortunately, many of the nation’s behavioral healthcare needs have grown more dire since the initial *SUPPORT Act* passed five years ago. **Notably, the unprecedented level of overdose-related deaths in 2018 (nearly 68,000 Americans) increased to more than 107,000 overdose-related deaths in 2022, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.**

The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy Director Rahul Gupta, M.D., M.P.H., recently projected that without major policy change, 165,000 Americans could fatally overdose each year by 2025. This alarming spike is primarily due to the deadly addition of fentanyl, xylazine, and other adulterants to the drug supply pipeline.

The *SUPPORT Act Reauthorization of 2023* and other congressionally authorized resources are essential to halt this dangerous trend. **We strongly support the bill and highlight the following provisions as NABH priorities:**

- Section 304. Lifting the IMD exclusion for substance use disorder.
- Section 103. Preventing overdoses with controlled substances.
- Section 104. Residential treatment programs for pregnant and postpartum women.
- Section 112. Loan repayment program for substance use disorder treatment providers.
- Sec. 303. Monitoring prescribing of antipsychotic medications.

**National
Association
for Behavioral
Healthcare**



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NABH appreciates your critical efforts to pass the *SUPPORT Act Reauthorization* of 2023, which will reduce avoidable overdose-related deaths.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shawn Coughlin'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first and last names being clearly legible.

Shawn Coughlin
President and CEO