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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry Applauds Senate for CARA Passage**

EAST PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island— The American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry applauds the Senate’s 92-2 vote today passing the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) and urges Congress to fund its many worthy provisions.

“CARA, although not perfect, is a pivotal step forward in addressing this public health crisis. We urge the President to sign this bill into law and Congress to provide funding so these initiatives can have a significant impact,” said AAAP President John A. Renner, Jr., MD.

The bill calls for \$200 million in spending, to be allocated at a later date. The bill would:

- provide resources to expand opioid use disorder prevention
- provide additional educational efforts to prevent opioid use disorder
- increase the availability of the naloxone for police and first responders
- strengthens programs to monitor and track opioid prescription trends
- identify and treat incarcerated people diagnosed with opioid use disorder
- allows nurse practitioners and physicians assistants to prescribe buprenorphine to treat opioid use disorder

AAAP members have been treating substance use disorders with co-occurring mental disorders as a subspecialty of psychiatry for decades and have been alarmed by the opioid use disorder epidemic. CARA is a strong step toward addressing this healthcare crisis.

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*American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry (AAAP) is the professional membership organization for learning and sharing the art and science of Addiction Psychiatry research and clinical treatment.*