

Statement for the Record

House Energy and Commerce Committee Subcommittee on Health Hearing, “Policies to Protect Our Communities from Illicit Drug Threats”

March 26, 2026

The undersigned organizations representing the prevention, treatment and recovery communities commend the Subcommittee for holding a hearing on the critical issue of illicit substances. However, we have serious concerns with one of the bills being considered, HR 5629, which would repeal the 2024 Final Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) Rules.

We are deeply concerned that repealing the OTP Final Rules would set our nation backwards just as we are starting to make progress in our fight against opioid misuse and overdoses.

Thanks in part to bipartisan congressional action – including the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act and the SUPPORT Act – recent data shows encouraging trends. Earlier this year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported the largest single-year decline in overdose deaths on record, a 25% decrease from the prior year. While 79,000 lives lost in 2024 is still far too high, it marks the first time overdose deaths have fallen below 100,000 since 2020.

The OTP Final Rule strikes an important balance by expanding access to care while maintaining strong patient safety protections. For example, One provider that has a network of 87 OTPs across 27 states—has reported significant improvements in patient outcomes since the implementation of the final rule. As a result of more telehealth admissions, take-home medication and an accelerated dosing protocol, there is:

- 80% less fentanyl use by patients in the first 30 days of treatment
- a 21% increase in 30-day patient retention
- a 15% improvement in absenteeism

We appreciate the Committee’s leadership on this issue and stand ready to work collaboratively to further reduce opioid misuse and overdose deaths while preserving access to effective, evidence-based treatment.

Addiction Professionals of North Carolina

Advocates for Opioid Addiction Treatment

American Academy of Addiction
Psychiatry

American Association for the Treatment
of Opioid Dependence

California Consortium of Addiction
Programs & Professionals

California Opioid Maintenance Providers
Community Education Group

Comprehensive Center for Pain and
Addiction

Coalition of Medication Assisted
Treatment Providers and Advocates

Drug Policy Research and Advocacy
Board

Faces & Voices of Recovery

Harm Reduction Lab, University of
Arizona

IC&RC

Legal Action Center

Maryland Association for the Treatment of
Opioid Dependence

Mobilize Recovery

National Behavioral Health Association of
Providers

New Jersey Association for the Treatment
of Opioid Dependence

Ohio Association for the Treatment of
Opioid Dependence

People Advocating Recovery

Rhode Island Association for Addiction
Professionals

South Carolina Association for the
Treatment of Opioid Dependence

Treatment Communities of America

VICTA, LLC

Young People in Recovery

WestCare Foundation