



September 29, 2015

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Chairman, Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on the Judiciary
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Goodlatte
Chairman, House Committee on the Judiciary
Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Conyers
Ranking Member, House Committee on the Judiciary
Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Grassley and Goodlatte and Ranking Members Leahy and Conyers:

We write in support of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2015, introduced by Senators Whitehouse, Portman, Ayotte, Klobuchar, Coons, and Kirk in the Senate (S. 524) and Representatives Sensenbrenner and Scott in the House (HR 953). As Attorneys General of our states, we have seen firsthand the devastating effects of heroin and prescription drug abuse on the public health and safety of our communities. The Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2015 would provide us necessary tools to more effectively confront this growing challenge.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, drug overdoses now surpass automobile accidents as the leading cause of injury-related death for Americans between the ages of 25 and 64. More than 100 Americans die as a result of overdose in this country every day—more than half of them caused by prescription drugs or heroin.

Law enforcement has always been on the frontline when it comes to drug crises, but we cannot arrest ourselves out of the current epidemic. Research shows the best way to address this challenge is through a strategy that includes prevention, law enforcement, reduction of overdose deaths, evidence-based treatment, and support for those in, or seeking, recovery.

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2030 M Street, NW
Eighth Floor
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: (202) 326-6000
<http://www.naag.org/>

The Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2015 will:

- Expand prevention and educational efforts—particularly aimed at teens, parents and other caretakers, and aging populations—to prevent the abuse of opioids and heroin and to promote treatment and recovery.
- Expand the availability of naloxone to law enforcement agencies and other first responders to help in the reversal of overdoses to save lives.
- Expand resources to identify and treat incarcerated individuals suffering from addiction disorders promptly by collaborating with criminal justice stakeholders and by providing evidence-based treatment.
- Expand disposal sites for unwanted prescription medications to keep them out of the hands of our children and adolescents.
- Launch an evidence-based opioid and heroin treatment and intervention program to assist in treatment and recovery throughout the country.
- Strengthen prescription drug monitoring programs to help states monitor and track prescription drug diversion and to help at-risk individuals access services.

Only through a comprehensive approach like the one outlined in this bill can we reverse current trends. We are grateful for your leadership and urge all Members of Congress to support The Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2015.

Sincerely,



Samuel S. Olens
Georgia Attorney General



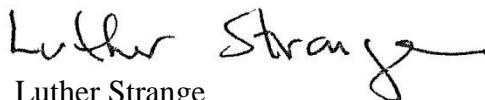
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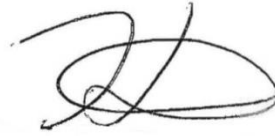
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Colorado Attorney General



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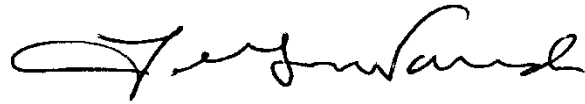
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Delaware Attorney General



Karl A. Racine
District of Columbia Attorney General



Doug Chin
Hawaii Attorney General



Lawrence Wasden
Idaho Attorney General



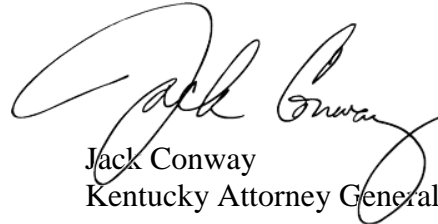
Lisa Madigan
Illinois Attorney General



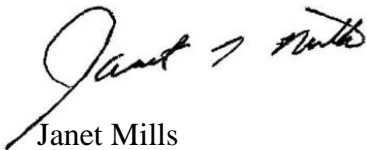
Tom Miller
Iowa Attorney General



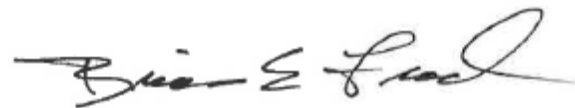
Derek Schmidt
Kansas Attorney General



Jack Conway
Kentucky Attorney General



Janet Mills
Maine Attorney General



Brian Frosh
Maryland Attorney General



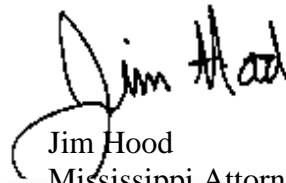
Maura Healey
Massachusetts Attorney General



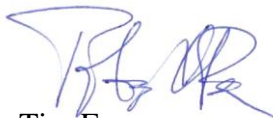
Bill Schuette
Michigan Attorney General



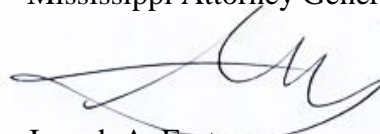
Lori Swanson
Minnesota Attorney General



Jim Hood
Mississippi Attorney General



Tim Fox
Montana Attorney General



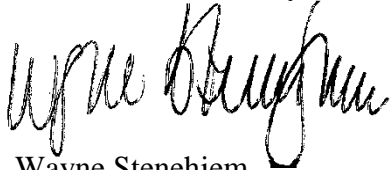
Joseph A. Foster
New Hampshire Attorney General



Hector Balderas
New Mexico Attorney General




Roy Cooper
North Carolina Attorney General



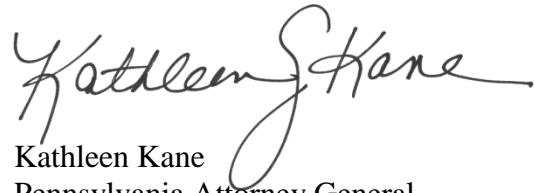
Wayne Stenehjem
North Dakota Attorney General



Mike DeWine
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Ellen F. Rosenblum
Oregon Attorney General



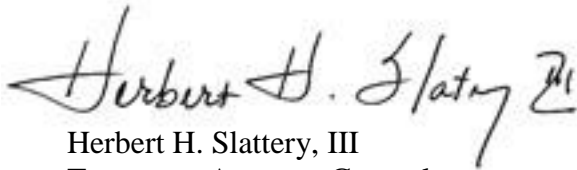
Kathleen Kane
Pennsylvania Attorney General



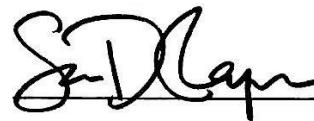
Alan Wilson
South Carolina Attorney General



Marty J. Jackley
South Dakota Attorney General



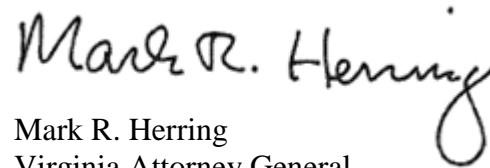
Herbert H. Slattery, III
Tennessee Attorney General



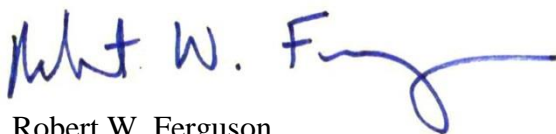
Sean Reyes
Utah Attorney General



William H. Sorrell
Vermont Attorney General



Mark R. Herring
Virginia Attorney General



Robert W. Ferguson
Washington Attorney General



Brad Schimel
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