



**PREVENT
OPIOID ABUSE**

[Date]

Dear Chairman Pallone and Ranking Member McMorris Rogers:
cc: Members of the Energy and Commerce Committee

A number of timely bills that taken together can make a significant dent in the opioid epidemic and save lives are currently parked in the Energy and Commerce Committee. We write to you as chair and ranking member respectively of the committee to urge you to move expeditiously to schedule a hearing, so these bills have the opportunity to be passed out of your committee and get the floor vote they deserve.

Action is urgent because a record number of our fellow Americans—more than 75,000—died of an opioid overdose in the most recently measured one year period., according to the National Center of Health Statistics. The continuing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are compounding the opioid epidemic, leading to major increases in overdoses and dependence and reversing the gains we were beginning to make in curbing it. Additionally, the continuing spread of the deadly opioid, fentanyl around the nation makes the need for effective measures expanding prevention, education, and evidenced-based treatment even more imperative.

As organizations who represent advocates, medical practitioners, people in recovery and members of impacted families, we see first-hand every day the costs of the opioid epidemic in ruined lives and avoidable deaths. We trust that you will agree that inaction is not an option.

Sincerely,

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