

Opioid Bill of Rights

Preamble: Every year, nearly 100,000 Americans lose their lives to opioid-related overdoses. Seven million Americans suffer from opioid use disorder (OUD). Street drugs and counterfeit prescription drugs are laced with fentanyl, poisoning unsuspecting individuals. Treatment availability is inadequate, particularly for adolescents and those who are incarcerated and is unaffordable for many Americans.

This Opioid Bill of Rights is designed to organize all Americans around a common purpose, to end the opioid epidemic in America.

Part I. Rights of All Americans

- 1. The Right to be informed of the addictive nature of opioids by the prescriber when they are prescribed.*
- 2. The Right to a government that will take all necessary measures to reduce the flow of fentanyl into the United States.*
- 3. The Right of individuals of all ages to receive comprehensive education about the risks of both prescribed and counterfeit prescription opioids, as well as street drugs.*

Part II. Rights of those with Opioid Use Disorder.

Every person struggling with OUD, regardless of age, finances, insurance coverage, ethnicity, or incarceration, deserves access to comprehensive, compassionate, and affordable OUD recovery care, deserves access to comprehensive, compassionate, and affordable OUD care to support their journey to recovery.

1. The Right to Opioid Use Disorder Treatment.

Every person with OUD has the right to rapid, easy access to evidence-based treatment, both outpatient and inpatient when needed, encompassing medication-assisted treatment (MAT), counseling, and support services,

2. The Right to Recovery Support.

Those in early recovery have the right to assistance in finding housing and employment.

3. The Right to Harm Reduction Services.

All those with OUD have the right to easy access to no-cost naloxone, needle exchange programs, and testing technologies to evaluate substances for contamination with fentanyl, xylazine, or other harmful substances before using them. All legal barriers hindering these harm reduction measures and emergency aid access must be dismantled

4. The Right to Criminal Justice Reform.

Comprehensive reform of existing legal frameworks and systemic injustices must be pursued to prioritize recovery and rehabilitation over criminalization and punishment.

5. The Right of Communities to Access Needed Support and Resources.

Communities affected by the opioid crisis shall have access to resources and support services needed to address the social, economic, and environmental factors fueling OUD.

