



NEWS ALERT

Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2014 Introduced

On September 17, 2014, Senators Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) and Rob Portman (R-OH) introduced the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2014 (S 2839). Sent to the Senate Judiciary Committee, the bipartisan bill authorizes the United States Attorney General to award state grants to address prescription drug and heroin abuse. It would require the creation of an interagency task force made up of representatives from various federal agencies as well as members of the public, including physicians, pharmacists and representatives from pain management professional organizations, the mental health treatment community, the addiction treatment community and pain advocacy groups. The purpose of the task force is to develop best practices for pain management and prescribing pain medication. The Act also would provide grants to states to expand their educational efforts to prevent drug abuse.

Additionally, the bill would make grants available for eligible entities to develop, implement or expand a treatment alternative to incarceration program for eligible participants. It also would create grants for states to develop a pilot law enforcement program to prevent opioid and heroin overdose deaths through the use of Naloxone training and implementation; to expand or make available additional prescription drug take back disposal sites and to allow state substance abuse agencies, among other eligible entities, to expand their treatment programs in states where there is rapid increase in the use of heroin and other opioids.

Lastly, the bill includes sections relevant to addiction and treatment services for women, families and veterans, and ways to incentivize states to address opioid and heroin abuse through implementing a comprehensive response to opioid abuse, including requirements related to state prescription monitoring programs. [To read the full text of the bill, click here.](#)

For more information about this bill, please contact Susan P. Weinstein at (703) 836-6100, ext. 101 or sweinstein@namsdl.org.

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