WASHINGTON MUST PROTECT VETERANS FROM OPIOID ADDICTION

Congress must take action to provide safe and effective non-opioid pain management options to veterans and their families to prevent addiction before it starts.

By the Numbers: The Impact of the Opioid Epidemic on Veterans

- Two-thirds of veterans report experiencing pain.¹
- 53% in Drug Overdose Mortality Rates. U.S. military veterans have been heavily impacted by the opioid overdose crisis, with drug overdose mortality rates increasing by 53% from 2010–2019.²
- $1 Billion The healthcare costs associated with prescription painkiller abuse from combat exposure during the War on Terror.³

Tens of Thousands of Veterans Impacted by Overdose Annually

- In 10 years, there were over 42,000 overdose deaths among veterans.⁴

Increased Likelihood of Veterans on Pathway to Addiction

- Receipt of a short-term opioid prescription among veterans is associated with increased risk of heroin initiation.⁵

Action is Needed: Prevent Addiction Before it Starts

In 2022, Congress passed the Non-Opioids Prevent Addiction in the Nation Act (“NOPAIN Act”) to ensure safe, non-addictive therapies are widely available to the tens of millions of Medicare recipients who undergo an outpatient surgical procedure every year.

Congress should build on these foundational efforts by expanding access to safe, FDA-approved non-opioid pain management options for veterans and their families under VA health care.

Congress: Expand Access to Non-Opioids for Veterans and Their Families.

The Voices for Non-Opioid Choices Coalition is a nonpartisan group dedicated to preventing opioid addiction before it starts by increasing patient and provider access to non-opioid therapies and approaches to manage acute pain.