

WASHINGTON MUST PROTECT VETERANS FROM OPIOID ADDICTION.

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

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

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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 to Progress to Addiction

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

~50%

Nearly half of combat wounded veterans report misuse of prescription opioids. ⁶

Action is Needed:

Pass the *NOPAIN for Veterans Act* (H.R. 4509)

In 2022, Congress passed the Non-Opioids Prevent Addiction in the Nation (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 pass the NOPAIN for Veterans Act, which builds 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.

¹ National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). Substance Use and Military Life DrugFacts. October 2019.

² Annals of Medicine. U.S. Military veterans and the opioid overdose crisis: a review of risk factors and prevention efforts. July 2022.

³ National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER). Did the War on Terror Ignite an Opioid Epidemic? September 2019.

⁴ Drug and Alcohol Dependence. Veteran drug overdose mortality, 2010–2019. April 2022.

⁵ Addiction. Non-medical use of prescription opioids is associated with heroin initiation among US veterans: a prospective cohort study. August 2016.

⁶ Science Direct. Opioid and sedative misuse among veterans wounded in combat. January 2019

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Veteran Services Organization (VSO) Endorsers of the NOPAIN for Veterans Act

National Organizations:

Air Force Sergeants Association	Minority Veterans of America
American Legion	National Association of County Veteran Service Officers
Association of VA Anesthesiologists	Mission Roll Call
Association of VA Nurse Anesthetists	National Guard Association of the United States
CJ3 Foundation	Non-Commissioned Officers of America
Combat Infantryman's Association	Nurses Organization of Veterans' Affairs
Disabled American Veterans	Paralyzed Veterans of America
Fleet Reserve Organization	United Soldiers and Sailors of America
Infinite Heroes	Vietnam Veterans of America
Jewish War Veterans	
Military Order of the Purple Heart	

State Organizations:

A Voice in the Wilderness Center	Heroes Helping Heroes 4 Life
American Freedom Consulting	Heroes Movement
American Soldier Network	Ho'ola Veteran Services
Balanced Veterans Network	Hope and Healing 4 Warriors
Braach Shepherds 4 Veterans	Independence for Veterans
Center for Suicide Awareness	Montachusett's Veteran Outreach Center
Crux Wilderness	Mosaic
Deer Run Ranch Equine Connection	National Coalition for Patriots
Downriver for Veterans	Operation Charlie Bravo
Dropping 22	Operation First Response
Dryhootch	Project Restore Hope
Endeavor Therapeutic Horsemanship	PTSD Awareness Summit
Equine Escape	Resilience Warriors
Fire Mission Ministries	Soldier Strong
Fox Valley Warrior Aid Alliance	The Battle Within
Frontline Healing Foundation	The Veteran Mentor Project
Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center	Veteran Outreach Center
Helping Veterans and Families	Veterans Navigation Center
	Veterans Network Association
	Veterans Ranch
	Wisconsin Veterans Network

What They're Saying: VSO Support for the NOPAIN for Veterans Act

"Veterans deserve access to safe, non-addictive, FDA-approved pain treatments. This is common-sense legislation that prioritizes the health, dignity, and long-term well-being of those who have served."

Keith A. Reed, Executive Director of the Air Force Sergeants Association

"Ensuring our veterans have access to safe, effective, non-opioid treatments is not just sound policy - it's a moral imperative. Our heroes deserve better, and this legislation delivers that." **United Soldiers and Sailors of America**

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