



Dear Members of the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress,

On behalf of the patients, providers, families, and health professionals our undersigned organizations represent, we urge you to pass the Alternatives to Prevent Addiction in the Nation (Alternatives to PAIN) Act (H.R. 1227/S. 475) to prevent unnecessary exposure to opioids and ensure access to the wide array of FDA-approved, safe, and effective non-opioid pain management approaches for America's seniors.

Congress has already taken an important step in expanding access to non-opioid treatments through the Non-Opioids Prevent Addiction in the Nation (NOPAIN) Act, which was signed into law as part of the 2023 omnibus spending agreement and took effect January 1, 2025. This law covers outpatient surgical procedures covered by Medicare Part B and, as a result, would do little to prevent health insurance plans from steering seniors with a Medicare Part D plan towards lowest cost care options, which are often generic prescription opioids.

Our country's seniors are not immune to the worsening opioid epidemic, with overdose deaths among seniors soaring by more than 60 percent in the last decade.<sup>i</sup> In 2022, more than 1 million seniors were diagnosed with an opioid use disorder,<sup>ii</sup> and more than 50,000 seniors suffered an opioid overdose from prescription opioids, illicit opioids, or both.<sup>iii</sup> In fact, despite a 40 percent nationwide decrease in opioid prescribing over the last decade, opioid prescribing in Medicare increased by 75 percent during that time.<sup>iv</sup>

We urge Congress to ensure that non-opioid therapies are just as accessible to seniors as opioid-based medications. The Alternatives to PAIN Act would do this by establishing patient cost-sharing no greater than generic tier for Medicare Part D beneficiaries receiving non-opioid pain relief. The legislation would also prohibit utilizing step therapy and prior authorization for non-opioid pain management drugs for Medicare Part D beneficiaries.

Further, the opioid epidemic is estimated to cost U.S. taxpayers \$1.5 trillion annually.<sup>v</sup> A Health Management Associates report found that in 2022 alone, opioid use disorder cost the Medicare program \$33 billion.<sup>vi</sup> Congress can cut that cost and save lives by updating Medicare Part D and passing the Alternatives to PAIN Act, which will prevent addiction by increasing access to non-addictive pain management approaches.

With opioid overdose death rates continuing to climb, Congress must remain vigilant in fighting this crisis. Seniors deserve choices when managing their pain or recovering from surgery. In order to prevent addiction and save lives, we urge Congress to pass the Alternatives to PAIN Act.

Together, we can prevent opioid addiction before it starts and, in the process, save lives. We look forward to working with you to enact this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Voices for Non-Opioid Choices

Ambulatory Surgery Center Association

American Addiction Recovery Coalition<sup>vii</sup>

American Association of Nurse Practitioners<sup>viii</sup>

American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons

American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons<sup>ix</sup>

Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation<sup>x</sup>

Asheville Equine Therapy

Association for the Treatment of Neuroplastic Symptoms

A Better Life-Brianna's Hope<sup>xi</sup>

A Voice in the Wilderness Empowerment Center

Be Better Utah<sup>xii</sup>

Blue Water Recovery & Outreach Center<sup>xiii</sup>

CA Black Health Network

Center of Addiction & Faith

Chatham Drug Free

Clean Living Exceptional Alternative Recovery Residences (CLEARRR)

Coalition for Behavioral Health<sup>xiv</sup>

Coalition for Behavioral Health-Houston

Danny's Ride<sup>xv</sup>

Dove Recovery Center for Women<sup>xvi</sup>

Elderly Advocates<sup>xvii</sup>

El Rancho De la Vida

Equilibrium Wellness Center<sup>xviii</sup>

Facing Fentanyl

Face Addiction Now

Families of Addicts<sup>xix</sup>

Freedom Through Recovery<sup>xx</sup>

Friends of Recovery<sup>xxi</sup>

Generation O, The National Association for Opioid-Exposed Children<sup>xxii</sup>

Georgia for Recovery<sup>xxiii</sup>

Goldfinch Health<sup>xxiv</sup>

Granite Falls Community Coalition<sup>xxv</sup>

Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

Healing On The Fly Inc  
Hear Alex's Story<sup>xxvi</sup>  
Hep Free Hawaii  
Hernando Community Coalition<sup>xxvii</sup>  
Herren Project  
Holistic Homes for Us<sup>xxviii</sup>  
Home of the Brave Veterans Transitional House  
Hope Haven<sup>xxix</sup>  
House of Hope  
HUGS<sup>xxx</sup>  
InStep Indy<sup>xxxi</sup>  
Inclusive Recovery<sup>xxxii</sup>  
Iron Tribe Network<sup>xxxiii</sup>  
Jake's Reach<sup>xxxiv</sup>  
Journey House Foundation  
Koom Recovery<sup>xxxv</sup>  
Latino Recovery Advocacy<sup>xxxvi</sup>  
LITE Recovery Cafe<sup>xxxvii</sup>  
Lifeboat Addiction Services<sup>xxxviii</sup>  
Maine Mental Health Counselors Association<sup>xxxix</sup>  
Marissa's Voice<sup>xl</sup>  
Medicare Rights Center  
Mental Health America  
Mental Health America of Illinois  
Mental Health and Addiction Advocacy Coalition  
Metro Drug Coalition<sup>xli</sup>  
Michigan Women Veterans Empowerment  
My Mental Health<sup>xlii</sup>  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine  
National Hispanic Medical Association  
National Rural Health Association  
National Safety Council  
National Transitions of Care Coalition  
Northeast Ohio Opioid And Drug Consortium<sup>xliii</sup>  
Oasis Recovery<sup>xliv</sup>  
Operation First Response, Inc  
Operation PAR<sup>xlvi</sup>  
Optimum Health and Wellness Physical Therapy<sup>xlvi</sup>  
Overdose Lifeline  
Parrott Creek Child and Family Services<sup>xlvi</sup>  
Partnership for A Healthy Iowa  
Partnership to End Addiction  
Pennsylvania Mental Health Consumers Association<sup>xlvi</sup>  
Pledge for Life Partnership  
Positive Action Against Chemical Addiction, Inc. (PAACA)<sup>xlix</sup>

Positive Pathways RCO<sup>l</sup>  
Prevention Action Alliance  
Prevention Alliance of Tennessee<sup>li</sup>  
Psychophysiological Disorders Association<sup>lii</sup>  
PTSD Awareness Summit  
Real Life<sup>liii</sup>  
Recovery Café - Clark County<sup>liv</sup>  
Recovery Café- Ft. Wayne<sup>lv</sup>  
Recovery Café- Muncie<sup>lvi</sup>  
Recovery Café - Skagit<sup>lvii</sup>  
Recovery Mobile Clinic<sup>lviii</sup>  
RetireSafe  
Rise Recovery<sup>lix</sup>  
Ruyts Foundation  
Safe Haven Recovery Engagement Center<sup>lx</sup>  
Salvage USA  
Seeds of Eden<sup>lxi</sup>  
Shatterproof  
She Recovers Foundation  
Sobar<sup>lxii</sup>  
Society for Opioid-Free Anesthesia  
Society of Behavioral Medicine  
South End - Roxbury Community Partnership  
Stayin Alive 24 Coalition<sup>lxiii</sup>  
Step Up Foundation  
Stronger Sober House<sup>lxiv</sup>  
Substance Abuse Coalition Leaders of Arizona<sup>lxv</sup>  
Team Sharing, Inc.  
The Addicts Parents United  
The Anthony House<sup>lxvi</sup>  
The Battle Within  
The Retreat<sup>lxvii</sup>  
Tuerk House<sup>lxviii</sup>  
U.S.VETS  
VetPark's A.T.V.  
Veterans National Recovery Center  
Voices For Awareness  
Warren Coalition  
Warrior Path Home  
West Warwick Prevention Coalition  
Will Bright Foundation  
Wyoming Valley Drug & Alcohol Services<sup>lxix</sup>  
Young People in Recovery  
Youth 180<sup>lxx</sup>

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<sup>i</sup> Humphreys, Keith; Shover, Chelsea. “Twenty-Year Trends in Drug Overdose Fatalities Among Older Adults in the US.” JAMA Psychiatry. March 29, 2023. <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapsychiatry/article-abstract/2802945>

<sup>ii</sup> Office of the Inspector General. The Consistently Low Percentage of Medicare Enrollees Receiving Medication to Treat Their Opioid Use Disorder Remains a Concern. December 2023, OEI-02-23-00250. <https://oig.hhs.gov/oei/reports/OEI-02-23-00250.pdf>

<sup>iii</sup> Ibid.

<sup>iv</sup> Desmarais, M. (2024). Opioid Use Disorder in the Medicare Fee-for-Service Program. The Moran Company, an HMA Company. <https://www.healthmanagement.com/insights/briefs-reports/economic-analysis-of-opioid-use-disorder-in-the-medicare-fee-for-service-program/>

<sup>v</sup> “The Economic Toll of the Opioid Crisis Reached Nearly \$1.5 Trillion in 2020.” The Joint Economic Committee. Sep 28, 2022. [https://www.jec.senate.gov/public/\\_cache/files/67bcd7f-4232-40ea-9263-f033d280c567/jec-cost-of-opioids-issue-brief.pdf](https://www.jec.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/67bcd7f-4232-40ea-9263-f033d280c567/jec-cost-of-opioids-issue-brief.pdf)

<sup>vi</sup> Ibid iv.

<sup>vii</sup> Added November 22, 2024.

<sup>viii</sup> Added April 4, 2025.

<sup>ix</sup> Added April 29, 2025.

<sup>x</sup> Added April 24, 2025.

<sup>xi</sup> Added October 18, 2024.

<sup>xii</sup> Added July 11, 2025.

<sup>xiii</sup> Added November 22, 2024.

<sup>xiv</sup> Added March 28, 2025.

<sup>xv</sup> Added October 18, 2024.

<sup>xvi</sup> Added July 19, 2024.

<sup>xvii</sup> Added October 25, 2024.

<sup>xviii</sup> Added November 7, 2025.

<sup>xix</sup> Added October 25, 2024.

<sup>xx</sup> Added November 8, 2024.

<sup>xxi</sup> Added June 14, 2025.

<sup>xxii</sup> Added October 17, 2025.

<sup>xxiii</sup> Added November 22, 2024.

<sup>xxiv</sup> Added November 7, 2025.

<sup>xxv</sup> Added October 17, 2025

<sup>xxvi</sup> Added October 25, 2024.

<sup>xxvii</sup> Added October 25, 2024.

<sup>xxviii</sup> Added October 18, 2024.

<sup>xxix</sup> Added October 18, 2024.

<sup>xxx</sup> Added February 7, 2025.

<sup>xxxi</sup> Added October 18, 2024.

<sup>xxxii</sup> Added October 18, 2024.

<sup>xxxiii</sup> Added October 18, 2024.

<sup>xxxiv</sup> Added October 18, 2024.

<sup>xxxv</sup> Added May 9, 2025.

<sup>xxxvi</sup> Added April 25, 2025.

<sup>xxxvii</sup> Added October 18, 2024.

<sup>xxxviii</sup> Added December 6, 2024.

<sup>xxxix</sup> Added December 5, 2025.

<sup>xl</sup> Added May 16, 2025.

<sup>xli</sup> Added October 18, 2024.

<sup>xlii</sup> Added May 23, 2025.

<sup>xliii</sup> Added December 5, 2025.

<sup>xliv</sup> Added February 21, 2025.

<sup>xlv</sup> Added January 10, 2025.

<sup>xlvi</sup> Added December 12, 2025.

<sup>xlvi</sup> Added September 13, 2024.

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- xlvi <sup>iii</sup> Added September 27, 2024.
- xlx Added November 1, 2024.
- <sup>l</sup> Added October 24, 2025.
- <sup>li</sup> Added October 25, 2024.
- <sup>lii</sup> Added November 22, 2024
- <sup>liii</sup> Added October 24, 2025.
- <sup>liv</sup> Added October 17, 2025.
- <sup>lv</sup> Added November 8, 2024.
- <sup>lvi</sup> Added November 1, 2024
- <sup>lvii</sup> Added August 21, 2025.
- <sup>lviii</sup> Added October 18, 2024.
- <sup>lix</sup> Added September 5, 2025.
- <sup>lx</sup> Added October 18, 2024.
- <sup>lxi</sup> Added December 5, 2025.
- <sup>lxii</sup> Added November 8, 2024.
- <sup>lxiii</sup> Added October 18, 2024.
- <sup>lxiv</sup> Added April 25, 2025.
- <sup>lxv</sup> Added December 5, 2025.
- <sup>lxvi</sup> Added April 4, 2025.
- <sup>lxvii</sup> Added May 2, 2025.
- <sup>lxviii</sup> Added October 17, 2025
- <sup>lxix</sup> Added November 8, 2024.
- <sup>lxx</sup> Added November 7, 2025.