



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 26, 2026

Media Contact

Claire Onyechi: claire@nonopioidschoices.com

Voices for Non-Opioid Choices Leads 144 Organizations in Calls to Congressional Leaders to Include Alternatives to PAIN Act and NOPAIN for Veterans Act in Year-End Legislative Package

WASHINGTON, D.C. (October 26, 2026) — Voices for Non-Opioid Choices (“Voices”) and 144 other organizations representing patients, providers, families, and health professionals sent a [letter](#) to Senate Majority Leader John Thune, Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer, House Speaker Mike Johnson, and House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries urging them to include the bipartisan *Alternatives to PAIN Act* (H.R. 1227/S. 475) and *NOPAIN for Veterans Act* (H.R. 4509/S. 3209) in any year-end legislative package.

Despite declines in overdose deaths, the opioid crisis continues to harm patients, families, and communities nationwide.¹ Sustaining progress requires continued investment in treatment and recovery, alongside policies that expand pain management options and prevent unnecessary opioid exposure.

Congress took an important step by enacting the *NOPAIN Act* provisions in 2022, establishing separate Medicare payments for qualifying non-opioid treatments used in hospital outpatient departments and ambulatory surgical centers beginning January 1, 2025. However, gaps remain for Medicare beneficiaries receiving prescription medications through Part D and veterans receiving care through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

The *Alternatives to PAIN Act* would limit out-of-pocket costs for qualifying non-opioid pain medications under Medicare Part D and prohibit prior authorization and requirements to try an opioid first. The *NOPAIN for Veterans Act* would require qualifying non-opioid pain medications to be added to the VA National Formulary. Both bills have bipartisan support in both chambers and were subject to legislative hearings in the House Energy and Commerce and Veterans’ Affairs health subcommittees, respectively.

¹ Secretary Kennedy Renews Public Health Emergency Declaration to Address National Opioid Crisis. (Mar. 18, 2025). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. <https://www.hhs.gov/press-room/secretary-kennedy-opioid-crisis-emergency-declaration.html>.

“Patients and providers should be able to choose the pain treatment that best meets their needs without unnecessary coverage barriers,” said **Chris Fox, Executive Director of Voices for Non-Opioid Choices**. “Congress can build on the *NOPAIN Act* by passing the *Alternatives to PAIN Act* and the *NOPAIN for Veterans Act*, giving Medicare beneficiaries and veterans greater access to non-opioid pain solutions.”

Neither bill would restrict access to clinically appropriate opioids or interfere with patient-provider decisions. Together, they would reduce coverage barriers and expand access to non-addictive pain management options.

Voices and the cosigned organizations call on Congress to build on its previous work by including both bills in a year-end legislative package. The organizations stand ready to work with lawmakers to advance these policies and improve access to comprehensive pain care.

###

About Voices for Non-Opioid Choices

Voices for Non-Opioid Choices is a nonpartisan coalition committed to preventing opioid addiction by promoting access to non-opioid therapies for managing acute pain. The coalition works tirelessly to ensure that all Americans can benefit from effective, non-addictive pain management options, regardless of their healthcare coverage or setting. For more information, visit www.nonopioidchoices.org.