



The Reentry Act

118th Congress

House Sponsors: Reps. Paul Tonko (D-NY), Mike Turner (R-OH), John Rutherford (R-FL), and David Trone (D-MD)

Senate Sponsors: Sens. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Mike Braun (R-IN)

America is in the grip of a devastating epidemic

- Overdoses today are the **leading cause of death for Americans under 50**
- **More than 100,000 Americans died of a drug overdose** in 2021, the highest number of overdose deaths ever recorded
- This is a national emergency that demands immediate action

One vulnerable population is at the epicenter

- Individuals reentering society after incarceration are some **129 times more likely to die of a drug overdose in the first two weeks** after release vs. the general population
- U.S. jails and prisons have a higher rate of substance use disorder (SUD) sufferers:
 - **U.S. population:** 8.5 percent
 - **State prisons:** 53 percent
 - **Jails:** 68 percent
- **Former inmates are uniquely vulnerable** due to reduced tolerance for opioids, lack of effective addiction treatment options while incarcerated, & poor care transitions back into the community

Congress Can Do Better!

- Medicaid is generally prohibited from paying for expenses incurred while a beneficiary is incarcerated, **even when an incarcerated individual remains Medicaid eligible**

The Reentry Act

- Restart benefits for Medicaid-eligible incarcerated individuals 30 days pre-release
- Makes it easier for states to **provide effective addiction treatment and services**, allowing for smoother transitions to community care and reducing risk of overdose deaths post-release
- **DOES NOT EXPAND MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY IN ANY WAY**

Supporting Organizations: *AAPA; The American Association of Psychiatric Pharmacists (AAPP); American Counseling Association; American Jail Association; American Society of Addiction Medicine; Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness; Community Catalyst; Community Oriented Correctional Health Services; Drug Policy Alliance; Faces & Voices of Recovery; HIV Alliance; Legal Action Center; Major County Sheriffs of America; NASTAD; National Alliance on Mental Illness; National Association for Behavioral Healthcare; National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors; National Health Care for the Homeless Council; National Sheriffs' Association; Overdose Prevention Initiative at the Global Health Advocacy Incubator; Shatterproof: Stronger Than Addiction; The Kennedy Forum; The Mental Health Association in New York State, Inc.; and Treatment Communities of America & more*

Our national response needs to meet the unprecedented scale of this crisis!