



Prospects for Passage of  
the Comprehensive  
Addiction and Recovery  
Act

(CARA) S. 524/H.R. 953

# What does The Comprehensive and Addiction Recovery Act do?

CARA authorizes the appropriation of \$312 million according to the CBO over the 2016-2021 period in funding for prevention, treatment, recovery & criminal justice & aims to reduce opioid misuse & overdose deaths



# Key Components of CARA

- 1) Prevention:** Increased prevention and education efforts aimed at teens, parents, other caretakers and prescription medication disposal program expansion
- 2) Treatment:** Expand evidence-based treatment nationwide including MAT and services for pregnant women and women with dependent children who are suffering from SUDs. Launch a targeted opioid treatment intervention with high rates of opioid misuse.
- 3) Overdose Reversal:** Expand the availability of naloxone to law enforcement agencies, first responders and families
- 4) Recovery:** Expand recovery services to support individuals in recovery, including resources in high schools, institutions of higher learning, and nonprofit organizations
- 5) Law Enforcement:** Improve coordination between law enforcement and the treatment community so police can better connect individuals with SUDs to drug treatment
- 6) Criminal Justice Reform:** Provide evidence-based treatment in the jails and prisons and expand alternatives to incarceration to treat individuals in communities

## PREVENTION

### Sections 101-103

- Creates inter-agency task force for pain management best practices; National education/awareness campaign, community based coalition enhancement grants

## TREATMENT

### Sections 201-204, 302, 501-503, 601

- 201-204 (Law Enforcement and Treatment): Provides treatment alternative to incarceration programs, naloxone training grants, Rx take-back expansion
- 302 (Medication Assisted Treatment): Criminal justice MAT and interventions
- 501-503 (Addiction and Treatment Services for Women, Families and Veterans): Provides grants to improve treatment for pregnant and postpartum women; report on grants for family-based substance abuse treatment; Veterans' treatment courts
- 601 (State Demonstration Grants for Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Response): Includes a comprehensive prescription drug monitoring program to track dispensing of controlled substances, data sharing with other states, and educating physicians, residents, medical students, and other prescribers

## OVERDOSE REVERAL

### Sections 202 and 302

- Section 202 (First Responder Training): Provides grants for training first responders in administering naloxone
- Section 302 (Evidenced Based Interventions): Gives grant priority to entities with civil liability laws for those who administer naloxone

## RECOVERY

### Sections 303 and 304

- Section 303 (Nat'l Youth Recovery Initiative): Provides grants for substance use recovery support services, to help build communities of support, and encourage initiatives for young people in recovery
- Section 304 (Building Communities of Recovery): Funds shall be used to develop, expand, and enhance community and statewide recovery support services; and build connections between recovery networks

## LAW ENFORCEMENT

### Sections 201-204

- 201-204 (Law Enforcement and Treatment): Provides treatment alternative to incarceration programs, naloxone training grants, Rx take-back expansion

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

### Sections 401-403, 501-503

- Sections 401-403 (Addressing Collateral Consequences): Grants provided for education of criminal justice involved individuals; \*House bill ONLY amends Higher Ed Act to remove any question about the conviction of an applicant for the possession or sale of illegal drugs from the FAFSA form; task force established to recommend best practices for criminally justice involved individuals with SUDs
- Sections 501-503 (Addiction and Tx Services for Special Populations): Provides grants to improve treatment for pregnant and postpartum women; report on grants for family-based SUD treatment; Veterans' treatment courts

# SENATE ACTION

- ▶ CARA Passed the Senate on March 10, 2016 by a 94-1 vote
- ▶ First time addiction allotted time on Senate floor in over 30 years
- ▶ Coalition of 130 diverse organizations came together to develop, advocate for CARA
- ▶ On March 16, the Senate HELP Committee unanimously passed 5 addiction bills in addition to CARA:
  - ▶ S. 2680, Mental Health Reform Act of 2016
  - ▶ S. 1455, The Recovery Enhancement for Addiction Treatment Act
  - ▶ S. 2256, Co-Prescribing Saves Lives Act of 2015
  - ▶ S. 480, National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting
  - ▶ S. 2687, Plan of Safe Care Improvement Act

# Senate Passed CARA Amendments

Grassley substitute passed on voice vote

- Specifically authorizes \$15.9 million a year for HHS to treat pregnant and postpartum women. As much as 25 percent of the money could be used on a pilot program to treat women with an opioid or other substance use disorder. The cumulative authorization amount would be reduced by \$15.9 million, to \$62 million a year.
- Specifies that HHS could use as much as \$5 million each fiscal year from funds previously appropriated to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to provide treatment alternatives to incarceration. An additional \$5 million could be used each fiscal year to provide medication-assisted treatment through criminal justice agencies. The committee-reported version didn't specify maximum spending authorizations for those programs.
- Removes authorized spending limits on grants to comprehensive state opioid abuse programs. The committee-approved version sought to authorize no more than \$100,000 for planning grants and \$5 million for implementation grants.
- Donnelly amendment on follow up services for individuals who have received naloxone (passed on voice vote)
- Feinstein/Grassley on drug trafficking (passed 94-0)
- Toomey amendment on "lock-in" in Medicare Part D (passed on voice vote)
- Manchin amendment on a consumer education campaign (passed 90-0)

# OUTLOOK IN HOUSE

- As of March 28, H.R. 953 has 112 co-sponsors
- Post Senate passage of CARA, House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) urged House Committee Chairs to expeditiously pass opioid bills
- CARA referred to three Committees: Judiciary, Energy and Commerce, and Education and Workforce
- Since last year acrimony over mental health bill stymied quick action on MH/SUD bills
- Energy and Commerce Committee Members have introduced 8 different opioid bills
- House E&C will convene a markup on opioid bills in April/May, but jury still out on which ones
- House Judiciary Committee has not announced hearing on CARA
- Subcommittee Chair Jim Sensenbrenner sent letter to appropriators requesting CARA funding
- Wind at our back but only approximately 70 working days left in Congress



# TOOLS

- ▶ To check current House co-sponsors of CARA see here:  
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/953/cosponsors>
- ▶ See here to see House Energy & Commerce Committee Members:  
<https://energycommerce.house.gov/about-ec/energy-commerce-committee-members>
- ▶ House Judiciary Members:  
<https://judiciary.house.gov/subcommittee/full-committee/>
- ▶ House Education and Workforce Members:  
<http://edworkforce.house.gov/committee/subcommitteesjurisdictions.htm>

# Questions?

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