

November 17, 2004

Senator Arlen Specter, Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services (HHS), Education
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

Representative Ralph Regula, Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services (HHS), Education
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Specter and Regula;

Thank you for your continued leadership to increase funding for federal substance abuse programs. We are writing to respectfully request the highest possible funding levels for substance abuse prevention, education, treatment and research programs as Congress completes negotiations on an FY 2005 omnibus appropriations bill. The undersigned organizations, representing a diverse group of national stakeholders focused on increasing resources for substance abuse prevention, education, treatment and research, respectfully request that you work to secure the following recommendations listed below:

- **Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant – \$1.832 billion**
- **Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) - \$524 million** which includes \$200 million for Access to Recovery
- **Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) – \$200 million**
- **Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities / State Grants - \$441 million**
- **National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) - \$1.026 billion**
- **National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) - \$445 million**

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently found that in 2003 over 22 million Americans suffered from substance dependence or abuse to illicit drugs, alcohol or both. Despite the devastating reach of alcohol and drug problems, we are making progress in our efforts to prevent and treat the disease of addiction. To continue the momentum, funding is needed to close the gap between those needing services and those who receive the help they need. Resources are also needed for programs that prevent substance abuse problems before they develop. Finally, adequate funding is needed to assist our federal research institutions to continue their pioneering work on the causes, prevention and treatment of addiction.

Thank you again for working to provide the highest possible funding levels for addiction programming as Congress completes negotiations on an FY 2005 omnibus appropriations bill. We appreciate your leadership and commitment.

Sincerely,

American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence (AATOD)

American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM)

Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA)

Faces and Voices of Recovery (FAVR)

Legal Action Center (LAC)

NAADAC – The Association for Addiction Professionals

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD)

National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD)

Partnership for Recovery

State Associations of Addiction Services (SAAS)

Therapeutic Communities of America (TCA)