

DRAFT

Dear,

We are writing representing the Friends of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) to ask that you consider joining the Congressional Caucus on Addiction, Treatment and Recovery, an important bipartisan caucus that has been founded to advance the quality of research and service delivery to help individuals with substance use disorders.

While approximately 23 million Americans have a substance use disorder, the good news is that these disorders are responsive to a range of psychosocial and pharmacologic treatments. Further, research indicates that scientifically based prevention programs can drastically reduce the toll of substance use and abuse during critical periods of childhood and adolescent development. However, despite remarkable advances in research on substance use disorders, these basic health issues continue to disrupt American life resulting in lost productivity, secondary health problems, and premature death. Compounding these problems, patients, advocates, providers and even those researching the problem continue to face stigma that undercuts prevention and treatment initiatives not seen in other areas of healthcare. This is all the more reason to celebrate the leadership of Representatives Jim Ramstad and Patrick Kennedy who Co-Chair the Congressional Caucus on Addiction, Treatment and Recovery. We appreciate their courage and deep personal commitment to improve the lives of those affected by substance use disorders.

We recognize that the 109th Congress will face unprecedented challenges in allocating budgetary resources for discretionary programs under its charge, and we urge you to help your colleagues highlight the importance of substance use disorders by joining the Congressional Caucus on Addiction, Treatment and Recovery. Please contact Karin Hope (225-2871) on Congressman Ramstad's staff for more information.

Sincerely,

Friends of NIDA:

American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association
American Psychological Society
College on Problems of Drug Dependence
Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America
Legal Action Center
National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors
National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence

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National Families in Action

Partnership for Recovery

Physicians and Lawyers for National Drug Policy

The Federation of Behavioral, Psychological, and Cognitive Sciences

Therapeutic Communities of America