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COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAPITAL MARKETS AND
GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED ENTERPRISES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
MONETARY POLICY AND TRADE

BILL FOSTER

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
11TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

April 4, 2014

The Honorable Jack Kingston
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health
and Human Services
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health
and Human Services
1016 Longworth House Office Building

Dear Chairman Kingston and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As the Representative of a district that has seen a rapid increase in heroin abuse and overdose, I understand the need for a comprehensive federal response to combat the opioid abuse epidemic. I respectfully request the following programmatic levels and report language for various programs under the jurisdiction of the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant: I support \$1,879.8 million for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant, which is \$60 million over both the FY 2014 enacted level and the President's FY15 budget request.

Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, Programs of Regional and National Significance: I support \$361.4 million for the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment's Programs of Regional and National Significance, which is the same as the FY 2014 enacted level and \$64 million over the President's FY15 budget request.

I also request the following report language: "\$5 million is provided to SAMHSA to support community-based opioid overdose fatality prevention efforts, with a focus on those initiatives that provide overdose recognition and intervention training and education, access to rescue medications, and facilitate linkage to treatment and recovery services."

Center for Substance Abuse Prevention: I support \$190.5 million, which is \$15 million over the FY 2014 enacted level and \$5 million over the President's FY15 budget request.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

National Center for Injury Prevention and Control: I support \$44.646 million for the Core Violence and Injury Prevention Program, which is \$15.623 million over the FY 2014 enacted budget and level with the President's FY15 request.

I request the following report language: “The \$15.623 million increase for the Core Violence and Injury Prevention Program is provided to CDC Injury Prevention and Control to support prescription drug overdose fatality prevention efforts.”

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

National Institute on Drug Abuse: I support \$1,086.9 million for the National Institute on Drug Abuse, which is \$71.1 million over the FY 2014 enacted level and \$63.6 million over the President’s FY15 budget request.

I also request the following report language: “The Committee is concerned about the continued crisis of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. In particular, the June 2011 IOM report on pain indicates that abuse and misuse of prescription opioid drugs resulted in an annual estimated cost to the nation of \$72,500,000,000. Further, the Committee is very concerned with the potential rise in heroin abuse and addiction as a result of successful efforts to combat the prescription drug side of this issue. The Committee urges NIDA to 1) continue funding research on medications to alleviate pain, including the development of pain medications with reduced abuse liability; 2) as appropriate, work with private companies to fund innovative research into such medications; and 3) report on what we know regarding the transition from opiate analgesics to heroin abuse and addiction within affected populations.”

I also request the following report language: “The Committee recognizes that next-generation pharmaceuticals will surely take advantage of new technologies. In the context of NIDA funding, chief among these are NIDA’s current approaches to develop viable immunotherapeutic or biologic (e.g., bioengineered enzymes) approaches for treating addiction. The goal of this active area of research is the development of safe and effective vaccines or antibodies that target specific drugs, like nicotine, cocaine, and heroin, or drug combinations. The Committee is excited by this approach - if successful, immunotherapies, alone or in combination with other medications, behavioral treatments, or enzymatic approaches, stand to revolutionize how we treat, and, maybe even someday, prevent addiction. The Committee looks forward to hearing more about work in this area.”

I also request the following report language: “The Committee recognizes the significant health challenges, including substance abuse and addiction, faced by military personnel, veterans, and their families. Many of these individuals need help confronting war-related problems including traumatic brain injury, PTSD, depression, anxiety, sleep disturbances, and substance abuse and addiction. The Committee commends NIDA for its successful efforts to coordinate and support research with the Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Defense, and other NIH Institutes focusing on these populations, and strongly urges NIDA to continue work in this area.”

I also request the following report language: “The Committee is very pleased with NIDAMed, an initiative designed to reach out to physicians, physicians in training, and other health care professionals. The Committee urges the Institute to continue its focus on activities to provide physicians and other medical professionals with the tools and skills needed to incorporate drug abuse screening and treatment into their clinical practices.”

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism: I support \$476.2 million for the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, which is \$31.2 million over the FY 2014 enacted level and \$30.2 million over the President's FY15 budget request.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests. If you have any questions or need any further information, please contact Amy Kelbick on my staff at amy.kelbick@mail.house.gov or 202-225-3515.

Sincerely,



Bill Foster

Member of Congress