

November 9, 2011

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
Chairman, Committee on
Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member, Committee on
Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman, Committee on
Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Norman Dicks
Ranking Member, Committee on
Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Inouye and Rogers, and Ranking Members Cochran and Dicks:

The undersigned organizations represent the major stakeholder groups of the addiction and mental health fields focused on health promotion, prevention, treatment and recovery, including providers, people in recovery, friends, families and allies, community coalitions, State Administrators, parents, criminal justice and homelessness advocates. As you work to finalize appropriations for FY 2012, we strongly urge you to fund the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), at a minimum, at the Senate Appropriations Committee's recommended level of \$3,484,300,000. This is a reduction of \$27.3 million from the FY 2011 level and approximately \$80 million below the FY 2010 level for SAMHSA. While we understand the challenges you face in reducing the deficit, further cuts to critically important addiction and mental health services could pose a significant risk to public health and public safety.

Additional reductions to SAMHSA's budget would further strain state budgets at a time when states are facing severe budget crises. States have already been forced to cut approximately \$4 billion from mental health and addictions treatment programs over the past three years. At the same time, almost 60 percent of states reported skyrocketing demand for community-based mental health care and crisis services.

Since 2000, the rates of suicide have been increasing. In 2008, suicide was among the top 10 leading causes of death in the United States for the first time since 1998. In addition, marijuana use in youth is on the rise and prescription drug misuse/abuse remains a national epidemic. This necessitates the need for effective prevention strategies. As the economy continues to be in crisis, the need for addiction and mental health services is anticipated to increase. Ensuring individuals receive needed treatment on time will improve productivity in the long run and reduce strain on other systems.

Funding mental health and substance use services is not only the right thing to do for the nation; but it also saves money by preventing costly hospitalizations, incarcerations, and other adverse outcomes. According to a study by the National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC) within the

Department of Justice (DOJ), the economic impact of illicit substance abuse on the country is approximately \$193 billion in combined costs associated with crime, health, and productivity. For every dollar spent on addiction treatment programs there is a \$4 to \$7 reduction in the cost of drug-related crime. Treating addiction has also been shown to reduce medical bills per person by half.

The burden of mental illnesses on the U.S. economy is staggering. According to the National Comorbidity Survey Replication (NCS-R) Study, \$200 billion is lost each year nationwide in reduced earnings due to mental health problems. The costs of untreated or poorly treated mental illness in the disability system, in prisons, and on the streets contribute to our nation's mental health care crisis.

Thank you for your continued support of critically important drug and alcohol and mental health programming. We urge you to support SAMHSA by opposing any funding package that would cut the agency's funding by an amount lower than the Senate level.

Sincerely,

Alcohol Drug Abuse Prevention, Treatment and Enforcement (ADAPTE) International

Addiction Resource Council, Inc., NCADD Affiliate (WI)

AIDS Alabama (AL)

Alcohol & Addictions Resource Center, NCADD Affiliate (IN)

Allston Brighton Substance Abuse Task Force (MA)

American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP)

American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry (AAGP)

American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT)

American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence (AATOD)

American Association on Health and Disability (AAHD)

American Counseling Association (ACA)

American Dance Therapy Association (ADTA)

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention/SPAN USA (AFSP/SPAN USA)

American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA)

American Jail Association (AJA)

American Mental Health Counselors Association (AMHCA)

American Nurses Association (ANA)

American Probation and Parole Association (APPA)

American Psychiatric Association (APA)

American Psychological Association (APA)

American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM)

Association for Ambulatory Behavioral Healthcare (AABH)

Association for the Advancement of Psychology (AAP)

Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO)

Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law

Breaking Free, Inc. (IL)

California Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors (CAADAC) (CA)

CETPA, Inc. (GA)

Child Welfare League of America (CWLA)

Children and Adults with Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD)

Clinical Social Work Association (CSWA)

Coastal Horizons Center, Inc. (NC)

Community Access National Network (CANN)

Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA)

Community Connections, Inc. (WV)

Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery (CCAR) (CT)

Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH)

Council on Addictions of New York State (CANYS), New York NCADD Affiliate (NY)
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA)
Drug and Alcohol Service Providers Organization of Pennsylvania (PA)
Emergency Nurses Association (ENA)
Faces & Voices of Recovery (FAVOR)
Fighting Addiction Through Education (FATE) (OK)
Focus on Community (WI)
Healthcare Alternative Systems, Inc. (H.A.S.) (IL)
HIV Medicine Association (HIVMA)
International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium (IC&RC)
International Nurses Society on Addictions (IntNSA)
International Nurses Society on Addictions (IntNSA), Massachusetts Members (MA)
International Survey Associates (ISA)/Pride Surveys
Latino Commission on AIDS
Legal Action Center (LAC)
Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery (MOAR) (MA)
Mental Health America (MHA)
The Association for Addiction Professionals (NAADAC)
National Alliance for Medication Assisted Recovery (NAMA Recovery)
National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD)
National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)
National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), Racine (WI)
National Association for Children of Alcoholics (NACoA)

National Association for Children's Behavioral Health (NACBH)

National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers (NAATP)

National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)

National Association of County Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities Directors (NACBHDD)

National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP)

National Association of Rural Mental Health (NARMH)

National Association of School Psychologists (NASP)

National Association of Social Workers (NASW)

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

National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD)

National Coalition for Mental Health Recovery (NCMHR)

National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare (National Council)

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD), Detroit Affiliate (MI)

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD), Maryland (MD)

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD), Rochester Area (NY)

National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG)

National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)

National Foundation for Mental Health (NFMH)

Nevada Alliance for Addictive Disorders, Advocacy, Prevention and Treatment Services (AADAPTS) (NV)

Nurses United for Responsible Services (NURS) (MA)

Ohio Citizen Advocates for Chemical Dependency Prevention & Treatment (OH)

People Advocating Recovery (PAR) (KY)

Project Inform (CA)

Racine County Youth Coalition (RCYC)

Regional Addiction Prevention (RAP), Inc. (DC)

Resurrection Behavioral Health (IL)

Richmond Behavioral Health Authority (VA)

Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition (RWMPC)

School Social Work Association of America (SSWAA)

Seaway Valley Council for Alcohol/Substance Abuse Prevention, Inc. (NY)

South East Alcohol and Drug Abuse Center (SEADAC) (IL)

State Associations of Addiction Services (SAAS)

Stark County TASC, Inc. (OH)

TASC, Inc. of Illinois (IL)

Teen Challenge of Southern California (CA)

TenHoor & Associates

The AIDS Institute

The Partnership at Drugfree.org

The South Dakota Council of Mental Health Centers, Inc. (SD)

The South Dakota Council of Substance Abuse Directors, Inc. (SD)

Treatment Accountability for Safer Communities (National TASC)

Treatment Communities of America (TCA)

United States Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association (USPRA)

Washington Center for Psychoanalysis (WCP)

Witness Justice (WJ)