

Mr. President Donald Trump
THE WHITE HOUSE
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Paul Ryan
OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
OFFICE OF THE HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER
H-107, THE CAPITOL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
OFFICE OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER
H-204, US Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
OFFICE OF THE SENATE MAJORITY LEADER
317 Russell SOB
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
THE OFFICE OF THE SENATE MINORITY LEADER
322 Hart SOB
Washington, D.C. 20510

President's Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis
THE WHITE HOUSE
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500
ATTN: Governor Chris Christie, Chair

The Office of National Drug Control Policy
THE WHITE HOUSE
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500
ATTN: ACTING DIRECTOR RICHARD BAUM

The Honorable Tim Ryan
The Congressional Addiction, Treatment and Recovery Caucus, Democratic Chair
1126 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James Sensenbrenner
The Congressional Addiction, Treatment and Recovery Caucus, Republican Chair
2449 Rayburn HOB
Washington DC 20515

Dear Sir/Madam;

As one of the almost 90,000 members of The Addict's Mom national support group, I am writing to demand an effective, substantial, detailed and comprehensive national response to the opioid epidemic that is devastating individuals, families and communities across the country.

"The Addict's Mom" (TAM), founded in 2006 by Barbara Theodosiou after she discovered her two sons were abusing drugs, embraces and connects mothers and other family members who are struggling with a loved one who suffers from the disease of addiction. TAM is committed to fighting the stigma of addiction and to promoting multiple pathways of recovery for individuals and their families.

While recognizing that this is a complex issue that will require a multifaceted approach to make any significant impact, TAM also believes that there are several universal considerations that can be enacted at the federal level to benefit all.

I urge you to consider the following recommendations as among the most pressing to directly help impacted families;

1. Fully fund the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) and provide resources needed for a comprehensive response to addiction. CARA finally moves us closer to treating addiction like a disease through evidence-based practices such as medication assisted and individualized treatment. It supports community-based prevention efforts and long-term, robust recovery supports. It expands access to naloxone so that we can reverse overdoses and save lives. It helps educate prescribers. It invests in prevention programs for our communities and children. It helps law enforcement divert individuals who are struggling with a substance use disorder so that they can be treated in their communities.
2. Narcan (Naloxone) kits must be made readily available over the counter (OTC) and include a manual on how to spot an overdose along with instructions for Narcan injection. These should be made for sale in all major drug stores as well as for free to be distributed within state funded/ state run medical clinics. Appropriate "Good Samaritan" laws should be enacted to protect laypersons who administer Narcan in good faith to an overdose victim.
3. Protect Substance Use Disorder insurance coverage, including identifying substance use disorders and mental illness as essential health benefits, and require all individual and small group market plans to offer coverage for these conditions. Additionally, all medical conditions should be covered equally by health insurance. Existing federal parity laws need better enforcement.
4. Patients who either come into any emergency room for life saving measures or to receive detox treatment must be given recovery options including information regarding local recovery treatment, along with those agencies contact information to take with them upon leaving the hospital. If treatment is immediately desired, a social worker should take reasonable measures to place the patient into treatment.

The mission of TAM is to "Share Without Shame." I would like to share my story with you to put a face on addiction. We are not just nameless statistic, but real persons and families who are desperately seeking an end to this national crisis.

Thank you for your prompt consideration of this matter and I look forward to your reply.