

THE NEW ENGLAND COUNCIL

June 2, 2025

Dear New England Congressional Delegation:

I write to you today in support of the reauthorization of H.R. 2483, the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Reauthorization Act of 2025. As in years past, the Council is proud to support bipartisan efforts to reauthorize this key public health program focused on prevention, treatment, and recovery for patients with substance use disorder. As you know, the New England Council is a non-partisan alliance of businesses, academic and health institutions, and public and private organizations throughout New England. Our mission is to promote economic growth and a high quality of life in the region, and it is with that background that I urge you to vote in favor of the SUPPORT Act, a key component in addressing the mental and physical challenges facing our region.

The SUPPORT Act of 2018 changed the federal approach to treating addiction. However, according to the National Health Council¹, drug-involved overdose deaths have risen sharply since 2019. When the SUPPORT Act was first signed into law, overdose deaths involving opioids were just under 50,000 in 2018. However, in 2020, this statistic rose to 68,630 deaths and to 80,411 deaths in 2021². Of the 106,000 total overdose deaths in 2021, 70,601 could be attributed to fentanyl.

As you may know, the SUPPORT Act of 2018 changed the federal approach to treating addiction. Unfortunately, many provisions of this legislation expired in September 2023. We were pleased that the House passed reauthorization legislation with strong bipartisan support in 2023, but unfortunately the bill did not advance in the Senate. At the same time, according to the National Institute of Drug Abuse and the National Health Council, drug-involved overdose deaths have risen sharply since 2019.

The escalation in the crisis, especially around fentanyl, has drawn considerable Congressional attention, and we applaud the work of both Chambers in recent years. The Council is supportive of efforts to reauthorize and expand efforts to bolster the comprehensive federal response to the opioid crisis. By reauthorizing and expanding upon the SUPPORT Act, Congress can remove barriers to lifesaving treatment for Americans at greatest risk of fatal overdose, including individuals who are incarcerated and those exposed to fentanyl.

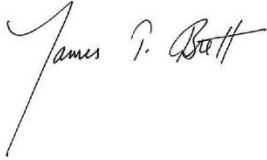
¹ <https://nationalhealthcouncil.org/blog/support-act-reauthorization/>

The New England Council

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The New England Council believes that the SUPPORT Act has played a pivotal role in addressing public health across the region and the country, and we encourage you and your colleagues to support the reauthorization of this significant legislation. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Sean Malone on my staff at smalone@newenglandcouncil.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James T. Brett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "B".

James T. Brett
President & CEO
The New England Council

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