

# The Substance Abuse Prevention Act of 2018

*Sponsored by Senators Cornyn and Feinstein*

*The following groups support the Substance Abuse Prevention Act: the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA), the Addiction Policy Forum, the National Association for Children of Addiction (NACoA), the Moyer Foundation, the National Council for Behavioral Health, the National District Attorneys Association, the Fraternal Order of Police, the National HIDTA Directors Association, the Partnership for Drug-Free Kids, the National Criminal Justice Association, the National Association of Police Organizations, and the National Association of Drug Court Professionals.*

- **Office of National Drug Control Policy**—Reauthorizes the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) at the White House, which oversees all Executive Branch efforts on narcotics control, including the development of a national drug control strategy, while ensuring that these efforts strengthen and complement state and local anti-drug activities.
- **Drug-Free Communities Program**—Reauthorizes the Drug-Free Communities Program, one of our nation’s most important programs for preventing youth substance abuse and reducing demand for illicit narcotics at the community level.
- **Drug Courts**—Reauthorizes Department of Justice funding for drug courts, which are on the front-lines of preventing drug addiction through targeted interventions for individuals with drug addiction and substance abuse disorders. This legislation would also allow non-profit organizations to provide important training and technical assistance to drug courts.
- **High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Forces**—Reauthorizes the ONDCP High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Program, which provides funding for federal, state, and local law enforcement task forces operating in our nation’s most critical drug trafficking regions. This legislation would also improve the program by targeting funds for implementation of a coordinated drug overdose response strategy, including coordination with public health officials and other multi-disciplinary efforts to reduce demand for narcotics and prevent drug abuse. It also provides supplemental grants to law enforcement agencies to protect law enforcement from accidental exposure to dangerous narcotics.
- **Public Awareness**—Allows the ONDCP Director to participate in and expand opioid and heroin awareness campaigns authorized under the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA).
- **DEA 360 Strategy**—Authorizes the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) to conduct a pilot program in targeted cities as a response to growing demand for heroin and opioids. Under this program, DEA would partner with healthcare and community organizations to raise awareness of substance abuse, strengthen community organizations that provide long-term substance abuse assistance, and target criminal organizations responsible for increasing the supply of illicit narcotics.
- **Protecting Families with Substance Abuse Challenges**—Improves collaboration and provides resources to the Department of Health and Human Services to help families stay together while battling substance abuse—including through screening, treatment, supportive housing, and other interventions.
- **Abuse-Deterrent Opioids**—Eliminates barriers that prevent access to abuse-deterrent opioids for members of group and individual health plans. Requires commercial and Medicare plans to educate providers on abuse prevention efforts, including the use of abuse-deterrent opioids.
- **Overdose Reversal**—Requires hospitals that provide for Medicare and Medicaid patients to provide overdose reversal medication (Naloxone) and a referral to treatment options as part of the discharge protocol for overdose patients.
- **Better Substance Abuse Treatment**—Directs GAO and CMS to report on improving substance abuse disorder treatment reimbursement to attract a more talented workforce. Encourages better Medicaid substance abuse disorder reimbursement.

- **Educating Prescribers**—Requires Attorney General and HHS Secretary to complete a plan for educating and training medical practitioners in best practices for prescribing controlled substances.
- **START Program**—Authorizes the Director of ONDCP in coordination with SAMHSA to provide grants to establish Sobriety Treatment and Recovery Teams (START) to determine the effectiveness of pairing social workers and mentors with families that are struggling with substance abuse and child abuse or neglect.