



April 10, 2018

The Honorable Elijah Cummings
2163 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Congressman Cummings and Senator Warren:

On behalf of the more than 5,000 members of Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA), I want to thank you for your outstanding leadership in introducing “The CARE Act”.

CADCA is a national nonprofit whose mission is to build and strengthen the capacity of community coalitions to create and maintain safe, health, and drug-free communities globally. CADCA and its members have been working hard to develop comprehensive strategies, programs, and services to prevent and delay the age that American youth start to use alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.

The epidemic of prescription drug abuse and opioid overdose deaths gripping the nation has impacted communities across the entire country. With overdose deaths now outnumbering deaths from car accidents and gun violence, the opioid epidemic is truly a crisis that warrants swift and bold Congressional action. We applaud the emergency and comprehensive assistance The CARE Act would authorize for States and localities most affected by this epidemic.

CADCA is pleased to support this legislation because of its comprehensive approach to addressing the opioid crises, by focusing on the full continuum of care, including provisions to enhance prevention, early intervention and engagement treatment, overdose reversal, core medical and recovery support services as well as workforce development and research. CADCA’s multi-sector community coalitions have fully engaged in a comprehensive manner to plan and implement strategies across multiple sectors of their communities. These coalitions have seen major reductions in population-level misuse of opioids, including those in the epicenters of the epidemic. That is why CADCA and its members are pleased with the comprehensive response to address this national issue through The CARE Act.

Any truly comprehensive response to address the opioid epidemic must appropriately include primary prevention and CADCA is pleased to see that prevention is specifically and appropriately included in both the state and local responses to the epidemic throughout this legislation. Further, we are pleased that the definition of prevention, includes comprehensive, community-wide, multi component coalition approaches that we know have the highest levels of effectiveness in reducing population-levels of opioid misuse.

It is for these reasons that CADCA and its members are proud to support “The CARE Act” to help states and communities more comprehensively and intentionally address the opioid epidemic by authorizing much needed federal support across the entire continuum of care.

Sincerely,

Arthur T. Dean
Major General, U.S. Army, Retired
Chairman and CEO