



December 9, 2021

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

The Honorable Carolyn Maloney
2308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Warren and Chairwoman Maloney:

The National Safety Council (NSC) thanks you for reintroducing the Comprehensive Addiction Resources Emergency (CARE) Act. This legislation is needed now, more than ever. According to new provisional data from the CDC, drug overdose deaths between April 2020 and April 2021 topped 100,000, marking a record number of lives lost in a 12-month period.¹

NSC has been America's leading safety advocate for over 100 years. As a mission-based nonprofit organization, NSC works to eliminate leading causes of preventable death and injury, focusing our efforts on the workplace, roadways and impairment. We create a culture of safety to keep people safer in the workplace and beyond so they can live their fullest lives. Our more than 15,500 member companies represent 7 million employees at nearly 50,000 U.S. worksites.

These drug overdoses are tragic *and preventable*. The CARE Act contains many provisions to implement solutions we know work to prevent these unnecessary deaths. Expanding access to Naloxone reduces overdose fatalities.² Providing funding directly to the communities most impacted by this epidemic, especially our tribal communities, is important to ensure solutions are tailored to address community-specific issues. NSC also supports increasing funding for research into substance use disorders (SUD), public health surveillance and improved training of health care providers treating individuals with SUDs.

NSC appreciates the inclusion of funding for grants and research to support workers with, or at risk for, SUDs to maintain or gain employment. NSC believes employers have a critical role to play in addressing the overdose epidemic and they should be encouraged to retain and hire workers in recovery. Workers in recovery have lower turnover rates, are less likely to miss work days, less likely to be hospitalized and have fewer medical visits.³ It's important to note approximately 70% of adults with an SUD are employed.⁴ Research from NSC and NORC at the University of Chicago found if employers invest in their employees with SUDs by providing resources to assist them, they will not only retain workers but will also save money.⁵ NSC also

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm>

² Chimbar, Lisa BSN, RN, CCRN; Moleta, Yvette BSN, RN Naloxone Effectiveness, Journal of Addictions Nursing: 7/9 2018 - Volume 29 - Issue 3 - p 167-171 doi: 10.1097/JAN.0000000000000230

³ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5671784/>

⁴ <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/opioids/wsrp/default.html>

⁵ Link to cost calculator

supports training employers in recognizing and responding to impairment in the workplace from drugs and other causes. Impairment negatively impacts workplace safety; employers need support to address it.⁶

NSC appreciates your leadership in addressing this overdose epidemic and looks forward to working with you to implement policies that prevent drug overdoses and save lives. If you have any questions, please reach out to Jane Terry at jane.terry@nsc.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lorraine Martin".

Lorraine M. Martin
President and CEO

⁶ <https://www.nsc.org/getmedia/4d79416d-be66-4962-8337-c83f1f087e6d/impairment-employer-survey0221.pdf>