

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services, and
Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services, and
Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Baldwin and Ranking Member Moore Capito,

As you consider Fiscal Year (FY25) 2025 Labor, Health, and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies funding, we write to respectfully request at least \$2,008,079,000 in funding for the Substance Use Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Services (SUBG) Block Grant, in line with the President's FY25 budget request. The SUBG is the cornerstone of states' substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery systems, and robust funding for the program is critical to combatting the overdose crisis facing our communities.

As you know, the ongoing opioid epidemic and associated overdose deaths is a public health crisis that is growing in complexity. Overdose deaths, which are the leading cause of death for Americans aged 18-45, increasingly involve both opioids and stimulants, such as cocaine and methamphetamines.¹ Meanwhile, nearly 50 million Americans had a substance use disorder in 2022, the most recent year for which full data is available. Despite the prevalence of substance use disorders, however, in 2022 just one in four people in need of SUD treatment received it.² More must be done to support effective prevention, treatment, and recovery programs.

The SUBG provides states with the funding and resources they need to build robust prevention, treatment, and recovery services for those in need. In FY22, more than 1.6 million Americans were enrolled in SUBG-funded treatment programs. SUBG-funded programs are effective: clients discharged from SUBG-funded treatment programs were more likely than individuals in non-SUBG programs to abstain from drugs and alcohol, see a decrease in their interactions with law enforcement, and access stable housing.³

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Drug Overdose Deaths in the United States, 2001-2021*, (dec. 2022), (online at <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/databriefs/db457.htm>)

² Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Highlights for the 2022 National Survey on Drug Use and Health* (Nov. 13, 2023) (online at <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/reports/rpt42731/2022-nsduh-main-highlights.pdf>).

³ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Highlights for the 2022 National Survey on Drug Use and Health* (Nov. 13, 2023) (online at <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/reports/rpt42731/2022-nsduh-main-highlights.pdf>).

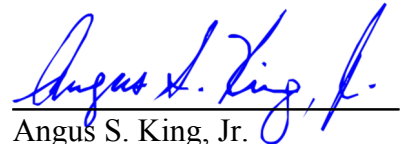
Congressional investment in SUBG is critical to supporting our states, communities, and constituents as they respond to the overdose crisis. To that end, we urge you robustly fund the SUBG as work progresses on FY25 appropriations bills. Specifically, we encourage you to include at least \$2,008,079,000 for the program. These thoughtful investments in the SUBG will strengthen communities, keep families together, and more importantly, save lives.

We thank you for your past support for the SUBG program.

Sincerely,



Peter Welch
United States Senator



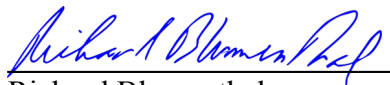
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Alex Padilla
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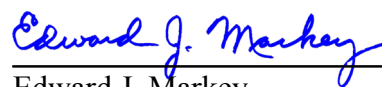
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



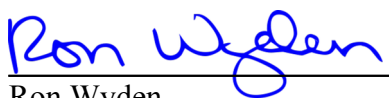
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