



September 29, 2015

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
Chairman, Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Goodlatte  
Chairman, House Committee on the Judiciary  
Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Conyers  
Ranking Member, House Committee on the Judiciary  
Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Grassley and Goodlatte and Ranking Members Leahy and Conyers:

We write in support of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2015, introduced by Senators Whitehouse, Portman, Ayotte, Klobuchar, Coons, and Kirk in the Senate (S. 524) and Representatives Sensenbrenner and Scott in the House (HR 953). As Attorneys General of our states, we have seen firsthand the devastating effects of heroin and prescription drug abuse on the public health and safety of our communities. The Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2015 would provide us necessary tools to more effectively confront this growing challenge.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, drug overdoses now surpass automobile accidents as the leading cause of injury-related death for Americans between the ages of 25 and 64. More than 100 Americans die as a result of overdose in this country every day—more than half of them caused by prescription drugs or heroin.

Law enforcement has always been on the frontline when it comes to drug crises, but we cannot arrest ourselves out of the current epidemic. Research shows the best way to address this challenge is through a strategy that includes prevention, law enforcement, reduction of overdose deaths, evidence-based treatment, and support for those in, or seeking, recovery.

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The Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2015 will:

- Expand prevention and educational efforts—particularly aimed at teens, parents and other caretakers, and aging populations—to prevent the abuse of opioids and heroin and to promote treatment and recovery.
- Expand the availability of naloxone to law enforcement agencies and other first responders to help in the reversal of overdoses to save lives.
- Expand resources to identify and treat incarcerated individuals suffering from addiction disorders promptly by collaborating with criminal justice stakeholders and by providing evidence-based treatment.
- Expand disposal sites for unwanted prescription medications to keep them out of the hands of our children and adolescents.
- Launch an evidence-based opioid and heroin treatment and intervention program to assist in treatment and recovery throughout the country.
- Strengthen prescription drug monitoring programs to help states monitor and track prescription drug diversion and to help at-risk individuals access services.

Only through a comprehensive approach like the one outlined in this bill can we reverse current trends. We are grateful for your leadership and urge all Members of Congress to support The Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2015.

Sincerely,



Samuel S. Olens  
Georgia Attorney General



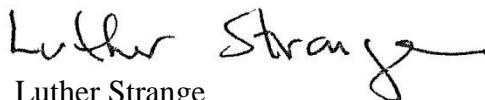
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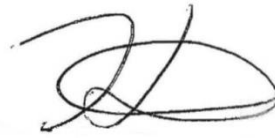
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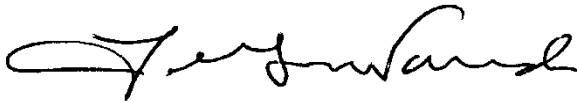
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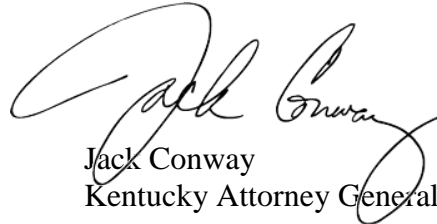
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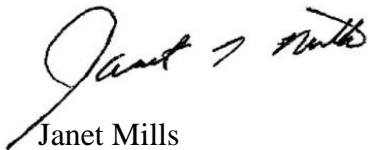
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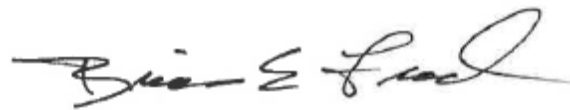
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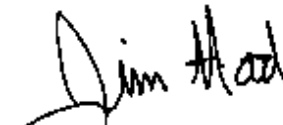
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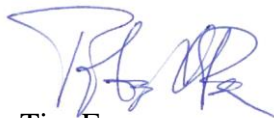
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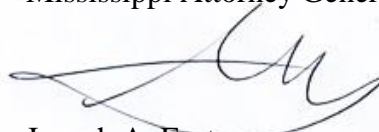
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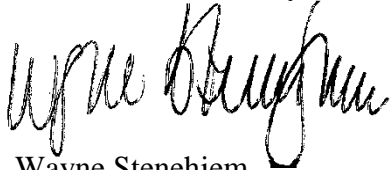
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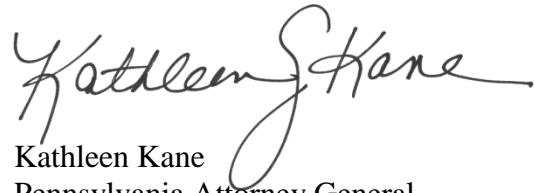
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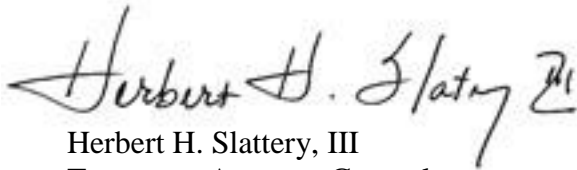
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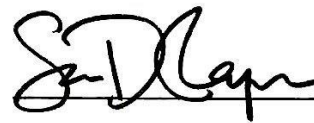
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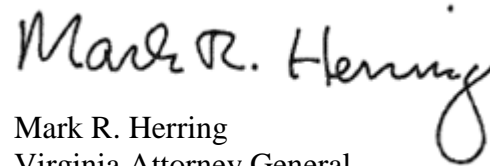
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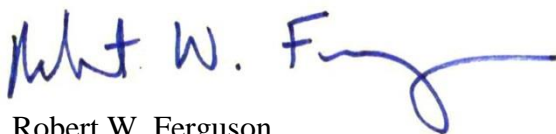
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