

Combating the Opioid Epidemic Act (S. 2004)

The opioid crisis in America has destroyed families and communities alike; the time for intensive action is long overdue. The epidemic killed more than 33,000 people in 2015, a rate that was more than any year on record.¹ Further, according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, an estimated 3.3 million Americans aged 12 or over misused prescription pain relievers in 2016.² Recently, President Trump declared the opioid crisis a public health emergency. Although Congress has taken great strides to increase funding for prevention, treatment and recovery in recent years, a more stable, long term investment and more targeted funding is needed to help the hardest hit communities curb the rising impact of this paralyzing epidemic. **For this reason, Senators Bob Casey (D-PA) and Ed Markey (D-MA) introduced the Combating the Opioid Epidemic Act (S. 2004). The American Psychiatric Association has endorsed S. 2004 to help patients and families hurt by this epidemic. The bill proposes:**

- **\$45 billion to address the opioid crisis over 10 fiscal years, similar the amount proposed in the Better Care Reconciliation Act (BCRA).**
- **Allocates funding to the Account for State Response to the Opioid Abuse Crisis, created by the 21st Century Cures Act's opioid response fund.**
- **Allows states to also use this funding for detection, surveillance, and treatment of co-occurring conditions and data collection/reporting on the number of deaths from opioid overdose.**
- **Invests \$252 million over five fiscal years for research on pain and addiction.**
- **The National Institutes of Health will administer research funding for the Account.**

¹ Drug Overdose. CDC. <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/index.html>

² Key Substance Use and Mental Health Indicators in the United States: Results from the 2016 National Survey on Drug Use and Health. SAMHSA. <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/NSDUH-FFR1-2016/NSDUH-FFR1-2016.htm>