

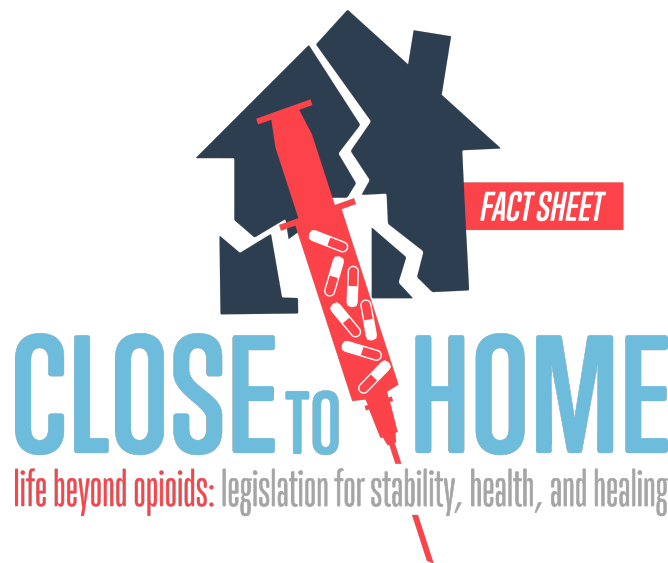
FACT SHEET

HR 5889

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H.R. 5889, RECOGNIZING EARLY CHILDHOOD TRAUMA RELATED TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE ACT OF 2018 | DAVE BRAT (R-VA) AND TOM O’HALLERAN (D-AZ)

Background: Half of opioid overdose deaths occur among men and women ages 25 to 44, and many of these individuals are parents. Children living with a parent addicted to drugs or alcohol deal with heavy levels of stress, fear, and trauma in their lives. These children are often left to care for themselves or younger siblings as well. In fact, living with an addict is one of the eight categories of “adverse childhood experiences,” events that are potentially traumatic that can have lasting negative effects on a child’s health and well-being.

The President’s Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis highlighted the importance of supporting young children dealing with an adult’s substance abuse, stating: “Risk factors can interrupt developmental patterns and it is important to implement programs designed for early developmental periods . . . Intervening early in childhood can alter the life course trajectory in a positive direction.” As the Bipartisan Policy Center explains, “[G]oing forward, more must be done to educate the parents, grandparents, child caregivers, and Head Start teachers who work with, teach, and care for children affected by this issue.”

H.R. 5889, *Recognizing Early Childhood Trauma Related to Substance Abuse Act of 2018*: To help support these children, Representatives Dave Brat (R-VA) and Tom O’Halleran (D-AZ) introduced HR 5889, the *Recognizing Early Childhood Trauma Related to Substance Abuse Act of 2018*. The legislation requires the Department of Health and Human Services to disseminate information to professionals working with young children on ways to recognize children impacted by trauma related to an adult’s substance use, and how to respond in a manner that will provide the best support for the child. This information will help promote whole-family and multi-generational approaches, including trauma-informed practices to prevent or mitigate longer-term negative impacts. Importantly, this legislation promotes the safety and well-being of children, strengthens families, and ultimately supports the positive development of young children.

- ✓ **Educates professionals** on ways to identify and respond to children suffering from trauma.
- ✓ **Promotes safety of children** to lessen long-term negative impacts.

H.R. 5890, ASSISTING STATES' IMPLEMENTATION OF PLANS OF SAFE CARE ACT | TOM GARRETT (R-VA) AND STEPHANIE MURPHY (D-FL)

Background: Since 2003, the *Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act* (CAPTA) has required governors to provide an assurance that states have policies and procedures to address the needs of infants affected by prenatal substance abuse, or a “plan of safe care,” to ensure the safety and well-being of infants who are born substance-affected. In 2016, the *Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016* (CARA) amended CAPTA to provide better protections for infants exposed to substances and ensure that the needs of families and caregivers are met.

Unfortunately, implementation of this provision has been difficult due to a lack of information and guidance from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). A Government Accountability Office report found that “additional guidance and assistance from HHS would help states better understand what they need to do to develop policies and procedures that meet the needs of children and families affected by substance use.” The same report recommended HHS should “provide additional guidance and technical assistance to states to address known challenges and enhance their understanding of CAPTA requirements.” This was also an issue discussed in the President’s Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis.

H.R. 5890, *Assisting States’ Implementation of Plans of Safe Care Act*: To address this need, Representatives Tom Garrett (R-VA) and Stephanie Murphy (D-FL) introduced HR 5890, the *Assisting States’ Implementation of Plans of Safe Care Act*. This legislation requires HHS to provide states with guidance to support their implementation of the plans of safe care assurance, including by enhancing their understanding of the law, addressing state-identified challenges, sharing best practices, and supporting collaboration. This guidance will help to promote the long-term safety and well-being of young children and their families by mitigating the current confusion among states regarding the requirements in the law.

- ✓ **Provides states with the support they need** to execute safe care assurance plans.
- ✓ **Increases the states’ understanding** of the law.

H.R. 5891, IMPROVING THE FEDERAL RESPONSE TO FAMILIES IMPACTED BY SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER ACT | GLENN GROTHMAN (R-WI) AND CONOR LAMB (D-PA)

Background: The opioid epidemic is taking a toll on families and communities across the country, in rural and urban areas of every state. In 2016, over 11 million Americans misused prescription opioids, nearly 1 million used heroin, and 2.1 million had an opioid use disorder due to prescription opioids or heroin.

While efforts have been made at the federal level to improve prevention, treatment, and recovery options, truly changing course requires a coordinated response across all federal agencies. As the National Governors Association recently explained, “[I]ncreased coordination and communication within and between federal agencies involved in those efforts would help improve coordination on the ground, avoid duplicative efforts and streamline grant requirements, freeing up valuable time and resources at the state-level needed to mount an effective response to the opioid epidemic.” As more federal agencies have become engaged in this issue, from providing funding to offering guidance to state and local officials, it is imperative these activities are coordinated so that governors and local officials are better able to fight this epidemic in their communities.

H.R. 5891, *Improving the Federal Response to Families Impacted by Substance Use Disorder Act:* To improve federal coordination and help states better serve children and families, Representatives Glenn Grothman (R-WI) and Conor Lamb (D-PA) introduced HR 5891, the *Improving the Federal Response to Families Impacted by Substance Use Disorder Act*. This legislation establishes an interagency task force to develop a strategy on how federal agencies can implement a coordinated approach to responding to the opioid epidemic, with a particular focus on the existing programs that support infants, children, and their families. The task force will also recommend opportunities for local- and state-level partnerships, professional development, and best practices, and consider evidence-based initiatives related to prevention, whole-family and multi-generational approaches, and community-based projects. These activities will help better coordinate the activities already underway to support children and families, and will identify ways in which government agencies at all levels can work together to prevent the opioid epidemic from worsening.

- ✓ **Develops a strategy** to coordinate federal agency responses to the opioid epidemic.
- ✓ **Utilizes ongoing activities** to better support families.

H.R. 5892 | JASON LEWIS (R-MN) AND MATT CARTWRIGHT (D-PA)

Background: On February 15, 2018, the Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions and the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections held a joint hearing on how the opioid epidemic is affecting workplaces, communities, and the lives of working Americans. In this hearing, members heard about the economic impact the opioid problem is having on the economy as a whole, and how businesses large and small are seeing the effects of the epidemic. The National Safety Council also found that only 19 percent of employers believe they are extremely prepared to deal with the threat of the opioid epidemic in their workplace. On May 8, 2018, the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections held a hearing to examine the implications of the opioid epidemic for the Department of Labor's workers' compensation program for federal employees under the *Federal Employees' Compensation Act* (FECA). This hearing examined the many different ways the opioid epidemic impacts American communities, families, and workplaces, as well as possible solutions to assist in curbing this public health epidemic. Committee members have heard from employers, trade organizations, workers, community leaders, and other stakeholders about the need for the U.S. Department of Labor to promote a more robust discussion, gather relevant information and share best practices about what employers can do to provide appropriate resources to their employees and ensure the safety of their workplace.

H.R. 5892: H.R. 5892: Introduced by Representatives Jason Lewis (R-MN) and Matt Cartwright (D-PA), this legislation would create an Advisory Committee to advise the Secretary of Labor on actions the Department can take to address the impact of opioid abuse on the workplace.

- ✓ **Membership:** The Advisory Committee will meet at least twice a year, and will include 19 members, appointed by the Secretary of Labor, from the following groups: employers and employer groups, employees and employee representatives, workplace safety experts, human resources professionals, medical doctors, licensed therapists, academic researchers, state and local officials, and other experts.
- ✓ **Considerations:** The Advisory Committee will discuss opioid abuse and its impact on employer substance abuse policies, employer-provided benefits, workplace safety, productivity and absenteeism, alternative pain management treatments, employee privacy, community-based initiatives, and workplace policies to reduce the stigma of opioid abuse.
- ✓ **Report:** The Advisory Committee will issue a report on successful programs and best practices for how employers can engage with employees impacted by opioid abuse to the Secretary of Labor, the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, and the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.
- ✓ **Funding and Termination:** Advisory Committee members will not be compensated for their service. The Advisory Committee will use funds already authorized to the Department of Labor, and will terminate three years after the date of enactment.