

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-1406**

March 28, 2019

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations,  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations,  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

As you begin to consider Fiscal Year 2020 spending priorities within the Department of Labor, Health, and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill, I write to request \$1,858,079,00 for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant. Adequate funding for SAPT program is essential because it attacks the opioids crisis from every angle: treatment, prevention, and recovery.

Substance abuse disorders are a significant public health problem in the United States. Drug overdoses are now the leading cause of injury death in the United States, outnumbering both traffic crashes and gun-related deaths. Since 2000, over 300,000 Americans have died from overdose involving opioids. According to the Indiana State Department of Health, the amount of opioid-related deaths increased from 785 in 2016 to 1,176 in 2017.

The SAPT Block Grant serves as the foundation for States' substance abuse treatment, prevention and recovery systems. In FY18, SAPT funding directly served 1.5 million Americans. After being discharged from SAPT Block Grant-funded treatment, 57 percent were abstinent from illicit drugs, 76 percent were abstinent from alcohol and 93 percent had no criminal justice involvement.

I urge you to support this funding level for the SAPT Block Grant as work progresses on the FY20 appropriations. Continued funding for the SAPT Block Grant will strengthen vulnerable families and communities, help build a healthier society, and most importantly, save lives in Indiana's Sixth District and across the nation. Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,



Greg Pence  
Member of Congress