



## Support for Patients and Communities (*SUPPORT*) Act Reauthorization

### LEGISLATIVE REQUEST

*NABH calls on Congress to reauthorize the Support for Patients and Communities (SUPPORT) Act of 2018 (H.R. 4531) that House lawmakers considered last year. Critical policy provisions in the original law expired on Sept. 30, 2023. The original bipartisan SUPPORT Act of 2018 provided the largest congressional investment in overdose prevention. As America's overdose crisis worsens, reauthorization is crucial to maintaining existing overdose-prevention efforts and improving the nation's overall behavioral healthcare infrastructure. Congress must reauthorize the SUPPORT Act.*

### ➤ America's Behavioral Healthcare Crisis

The nation's behavioral healthcare needs are more dire since the initial *SUPPORT Act* passed more than five years ago. Notably, the unprecedented level of overdose-related deaths in 2018 (approximately 70,000 Americans) has reached 110,000 per year. The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy Director Rahul Gupta, M.D. recently projected that without major policy change, the United States could see 165,000 annual overdose deaths by 2025. This alarming spike is mostly attributed to the deadly addition of fentanyl, xylazine, and other adulterants to the drug supply pipeline. To halt this devastating trend, the *Support Act of 2023* and other congressionally authorized resources are essential.

House lawmakers passed the *SUPPORT Act* on Dec. 12, 2023 in a strong bipartisan vote of 387–37, while the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee approved its companion bill S. 3393 on the same day.



## *Support for Patients and Communities (SUPPORT) Act Reauthorization*

### ➤ **Why SUPPORT Act Reauthorization is Critical**

The SUPPORT Act's reauthorization contains several key funding streams to help bolster community-based substance use disorder (SUD)-related treatment and recovery and includes resources to strengthen the behavioral healthcare workforce. **We strongly support the entire bill and especially these provisions:**

- **Preventing overdoses of controlled substances:** The bill reauthorizes grants to help states enhance overdose data collection and improve their prescription drug-monitoring programs (PDMP).
- **Pregnant and postpartum women with SUD:** It reauthorizes grants to provide comprehensive treatment in residential settings to pregnant and postpartum women with substance use disorders.
- **Student loan repayment program for the SUD treatment workforce:** It reauthorizes a six-year student loan repayment program for SUD treatment professionals.
- Grant program for State and Tribal response to opioid use disorders.