

Campus Prevention and Recovery Services for Students Act (H.R. 6493) **Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute Statement**

I am pleased to offer this Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to H.R. 6493, the bipartisan *Campus Prevention and Recovery Services for Students Act*.

Alcohol and substance use is a devastating issue across the country and on college campuses. I lost two brothers to substance use - that began during their time in college. I understand all too well the pain substance misuse inflicts on students, their families, and their communities. Sadly, my family's story is not unique in New Mexico.

Since the start of the pandemic, states have reported increased numbers of drug overdoses. Campuses have reported increased mental health concerns in students as well. College students who deal with substance misuse and addiction often find themselves isolated and without a support network.

Congress has an opportunity to address this serious issue by making sure that colleges and universities support students through strong prevention programs. I don't want to see another headline of a promising young person lost to overdose.

That's why I introduced the bipartisan *Campus Prevention and Recovery Services for Students Act* along with Representatives Dusty Johnson, Lucy McBath, John Joyce, and Michael Guest. I would also like to acknowledge Representative David Trone, who is co-chair of the Bipartisan Mental Health and Addiction Task Force. Representative Trone led this bill during the last Congress.

Our bill will help to cut the chains of addiction and unlock access to treatment and prevention for countless students across the United States. Specifically, it will reauthorize the Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention provision of the *Higher Education Act* to promote evidence-based prevention and intervention strategies on college campuses. It encourages campus collaboration and service integration to address substance misuse and mental health concerns in a holistic manner. The bill also authorizes \$15 million to implement these grants for Fiscal Year 2023 and the five succeeding years.

The A-N-S builds on the existing language to further ensure institutions of higher education successfully implement prevention programs. Changes in the A-N-S include altering the interagency agreement to have the Secretary of Health and Human Services help develop practices that inform the criteria for strong evidence-based programs. It also requires the Secretary of Education to report to Congress on the

Department's efforts and best practices from institutions. The A-N-S allows for grant funds to be used to restore prevention programs during public health emergencies and natural disasters. Finally, it clarifies that institutions of higher education with the Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention program requirements will remain in compliance unless they knowingly and willfully failed to implement a prevention program.

I urge my colleagues to support this A-N-S and the underlying bill. This bipartisan legislation will surely enhance the efforts of colleges and universities to provide evidence-based prevention and recovery services for students and employees.

Mr. Chairman, I move the Committee on Education and Labor report the bill HR 6493 to the House of Representatives with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and with the recommendation that the amendment be agreed to and the bill, as amended, do pass.