



1201 16th St., N.W. | Washington, DC 20036 | Phone: (202) 833-4000

Lily Eskelsen García
President

Rebecca S. Pringle
Vice President

Princess R. Moss
Secretary-Treasurer

John C. Stocks
Executive Director

April 22, 2018

United States Senate
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of our three million members and the 50 million students they serve, we are pleased to support the Opioid Crisis Response Act of 2018 (S. 2680), which is scheduled to be marked up tomorrow. Votes on this issue may be included in NEA's Report Card for the 115th Congress.

Perhaps our most serious public health epidemic, the opioid epidemic appears to be getting worse. Deaths involving opioids rose by nearly 28 percent from 2015 to 2016, according to the Centers on Disease Control and Prevention.

In particular, we are pleased that S. 2680:

- Reauthorizes and extends the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA), which provides federal resources for evidence-based prevention, treatment, and recovery programs to combat misuse of opioids
- Sets up a task force to help identify, prevent, address, and recommend best practices for dealing with the impact of trauma on children and youth, including trauma related to substance abuse
- Creates a pilot program to help support children and families impacted by the opioid crisis, including grants to increase student support services and better integrate mental health care in schools
- Provides grants to help states address the needs of infants exposed to dangerous drugs, the impact of the opioid crisis on the economy and the workforce, and support pregnant and postpartum women and their infants

We are pleased to support this important legislation and stand ready to work with you to help ensure its passage.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association