



December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell,  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan,  
Speaker of the House  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer,  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi,  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Ryan, and Minority Leader Pelosi,

On December 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, municipal leaders from across the country gathered in New York City to discuss the lifesaving behavioral health reforms taking place in America's cities. Mayors, Police Chiefs, and Health Commissioners came together to share best practices for expanding access to treatment for mental health and substance use disorders, prioritizing prevention, and changing the culture from one of shame and punishment to one of healing and wellness.

With at least one in five Americans experiencing a mental health disorder and over 60 thousand Americans dying last year due to drug overdoses, the federal government must play a significant role in combatting this crisis. We call on President Trump to declare a National Emergency, which would open up critical federal resources for our communities. In addition, we call on Congress to appropriate increased federal funding to help fight this behavioral health epidemic, as local investment alone will not suffice.

Our coalition of nearly 200 cities, representing all 50 states and Washington D.C, would like to highlight our core funding priorities and requested funding levels as you deliberate the Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18) appropriations package. This funding will support our local efforts to expand naloxone distribution through clinical settings and emergency first responders, increase access to evidence-based opioid use disorder treatment with buprenorphine, and help implement innovative alternatives to incarceration programs. A more in-depth funding request is attached.

- \$1.86 Billion Dollars for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant
- \$562 Million Dollars for the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant
- \$500 Million Dollars for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act Emergency Opioid Funding
- \$395 Million Dollars for the Priority Mental Health Needs of Regional and National Significance Program
- \$334 Million Dollars for the Priority Substance Use Disorder Treatment Needs of Regional and National Significance Program
- \$181 Million Dollars for Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA)

In addition to our Fiscal Year 2018 behavioral health funding priorities, we would like to see the following provisions included in the FY18 spending package:



- Five year funding reauthorization of the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
- Five year funding extension for Community Health Centers
- Two year delay in Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) payment reductions
- Inclusion of *The Bipartisan Health Care Stabilization Act of 2017* commonly referred to as “Alexander-Murray Stabilization Bill” and the *Lower Premiums Through Reinsurance Act of 2017* commonly referred to as “Collins-Nelson”

The Cities Thrive Coalition is united in urging you to work together and in partnership with local leaders to create a stronger, better funded, and more integrated behavioral health system for all Americans. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues over the coming weeks and months ahead to achieve these goals.

Sincerely,

Bill de Blasio, Mayor of New York, NY  
Chirlane McCray, First Lady of New York, NY  
Adrian Mapp, Mayor of Plainfield, NJ  
Allison Silberberg, Mayor of Alexandria, VA  
Ardell Brede, Mayor of Rochester, MN  
Bobby Hopewell, Mayor of Kalamazoo, MI  
Brian Blad, Mayor of Pocatello, ID  
Bryan Barnett, Mayor of Rochester Hills, MI  
Carlo DeMaria, Mayor of Everett, MA  
Carol Dutra-Vernaci, Mayor of Union City, NJ  
Charlene Lovett, Mayor of Claremont, NH  
Daniel Drew, Mayor of Middletown, CT  
Dawn Zimmer, Mayor of Hoboken, NJ  
Debbie O’Malley, County Commissioner of Bernalillo County, NM  
Denise Simmons, Mayor of Cambridge, MA  
Derek Armstead, Mayor of Linden, NJ  
Domenic Sarno, Mayor of Springfield, MA  
Elizabeth B. Kautz, Mayor of Burnsville, MN  
Frank Cownie, Mayor of Des Moines, IA  
Frank Ortis, Mayor of Pembroke Pines, FL  
Gary Herzig, Mayor of Oneonta, NY  
George Van Dusen, Mayor of Skokie, IL  
Greg Fischer, Mayor of Louisville, KY  
Greg Stanton, Mayor of Phoenix, AZ  
Hillary Schieve, Mayor of Reno, NV  
Jacob Day, Mayor of Salisbury, MD



James Hovland, Mayor of Edina, MN  
James Schmitt, Mayor of Green Bay, WI  
Javier Gonzales, Mayor of Santa Fe, NM  
Jenny A. Durkan, Mayor of Seattle, WA  
Jim Throgmorton, Mayor of Iowa City, IA  
Joe Baldacci, Mayor of Bangor, ME  
John Giles, Mayor of Mesa, AZ  
John Hamilton, Mayor of Bloomington, IN  
John Heilman, Mayor of West Hollywood, CA  
John Hollar, Mayor of Montpelier, VT  
John Tecklenburg, Mayor of Charleston, SC  
Jon Mitchell, Mayor of New Bedford, MA  
Jonathan Rothschild, Mayor of Tucson, AZ  
Jorge Elorza, Mayor of Providence, RI  
Joseph McElveen, Mayor of Sumter, SC  
Joseph Petty, Mayor of Worcester, MA  
Josh Moenning, Mayor of Norfolk, NE  
Karen Alexander, Mayor of Salisbury, NC  
Karen Freeman-Wilson, Mayor of Gary, IN  
Kasim Reed, Mayor of Atlanta, GA  
Kathy Sheehan, Mayor of Albany, NY  
Ken Guinn, Mayor of Ocala, FL  
Ken Rosenberg, Mayor of Mountain View, CA  
Kim Bracey, Mayor of York, PA  
Kirk Caldwell, Mayor of Honolulu, HI  
Kirsten Keith, Mayor of Menlo Park, CA  
Libby Schaaf, Mayor of Oakland, CA  
Liz Lempert, Mayor of Princeton, NJ  
Lovely Warren, Mayor of Rochester, NY  
Luke Bronin, Mayor of Hartford, CT  
Lyda Krewson, Mayor of St. Louis, MO  
Lydia Lavelle, Mayor of Carrboro, NC  
Lydia Mihalik, Mayor of Findlay, OH  
Madeline Rogero, Mayor of Knoxville, TN  
Maggie Hart Stebbins, County Commissioner of Bernalillo County, NM  
Marcus Muhammad, Mayor of Benton Harbor, MI  
Mark Holland, Mayor of Kansas City, KS  
Mark Mitchell, Mayor of Tempe, AZ  
Megan Barry, Mayor of Nashville, TN  
Michael B. Hancock, Mayor of Denver, CO  
Michael Venezia, Mayor of Bloomfield, NJ



Muriel Bowser, Mayor of Washington, D.C  
Nan Whaley, Mayor of Dayton, OH  
Pat Furey, Mayor of Torrance, CA  
Paul Soglin, Mayor of Madison, WI  
Pauline Cutter, Mayor of San Leandro, CA  
Pete Buttigieg, Mayor of South Bend IN  
Peter Lindstrom, Mayor of Falcon Heights, MN  
Richard Kos, Mayor of Chicopee, MA  
Robert Kennedy, Mayor of Freeport, NY  
Sam Liccardo, Mayor of San Jose, CA  
Shawn Hogan, Mayor of Hornell, NY  
Stephanie Miner, Mayor of Syracuse, NY  
Steve Adler, Mayor of Austin, TX  
Steve Benjamin, Mayor of Columbia, SC  
Steve Fulop, Mayor of Jersey City, NJ  
Steve Hogan, Mayor of Aurora, CO  
Steve Williams, Mayor of Huntington, WV  
Sylvester Turner, Mayor of Houston, TX  
Ted Terry, Mayor of Clarkston, GA  
Ted Wheeler, Mayor of Portland, OR  
Tim Mahoney, Mayor of Fargo, ND  
Timothy M. Keller, Mayor of Albuquerque, NM  
Tom Tait, Mayor of Anaheim, CA  
Toni Harp, Mayor of New Haven, CT  
William Peduto, Mayor of Pittsburgh, PA

**Organizations Include:**

American Counseling Association

American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry



CC:

Senator Thad Cochran (MS)  
Senator Patrick Leahy (VT)  
Senator Roy Blunt (MO)  
Senator Patty Murray (WA)  
Senator Richard Shelby (AL)  
Senator Lamar Alexander (TN)  
Senator Lindsay Graham (SC)  
Senator Jerry Moran (KS)  
Senator Shelley Moore-Capito (WV)  
Senator James Lankford (OK)  
Senator John Kennedy (LA)  
Senator Marco Rubio (FL)  
Senator Richard Durbin (IL)  
Senator Jack Reed (RI)  
Senator Jeanne Shaheen (NH)  
Senator Jeff Merkley (OR)  
Senator Brian Schatz (HI)  
Senator Tammy Baldwin (WI)  
Senator Chris Murphy (CT)  
Senator Joe Manchin (WV)  
Senator Susan Collins (ME)  
Senator Bill Nelson (FL)  
Senator Lisa Murkowski (AK)

Representative Rodney Frelinghuysen (NJ)  
Representative Nita Lowey (NY)  
Representative Tom Cole (OK)  
Representative Rosa DeLauro (CT)  
Representative Steve Womack (AR)  
Representative Mike Simpson (ID)  
Representative Chuck Fleischmann (TN)  
Representative Andy Harris (MD)  
Representative Martha Roby (AL)  
Representative Jaime Herrera-Beutler (WA)  
Representative John Moolenaar (MI)  
Representative Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA)  
Representative Barbara Lee (CA)  
Representative Mark Pocan (WI)  
Representative Katherine Clark (MA)