



Honoring National Recovery Month Act

**Reps. David Trone (D-MD), Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), Ann Kuster (D-NH),
and Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-WA)**

National Recovery Month is an annual observance honoring individuals in recovery from substance use disorders and mental illness. During this month, government agencies, community and advocacy groups, health care providers, treatment and recovery centers, first responders, and others partner with individuals in recovery and their families to celebrate progress, educate the public, and combat stigma. Historically, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has played an important role in sponsoring and promoting Recovery Month by developing targeted outreach materials, suggestions for event planning, and other resources, which are used by community organizations across the country. A dedicated funding stream, as would be authorized by the *Honoring National Recovery Month Act*, is needed to ensure this critical work continues and is community-led.

Legislation

The **Honoring National Recovery Month Act** would authorize \$1 million annually for SAMHSA to develop materials, distribute best practices, and lead activities related to Recovery Month. The legislation provides SAMHSA with the flexibility to enter into an agreement with a national organization to use those funds for Recovery Month activities.

Why This Bill is Necessary

Maintaining federal support for Recovery Month is critical to show that celebrating those in recovery and educating the public about recovery from substance use disorders and mental illness is a government priority. While Recovery Month is an important celebration every year, this bill is especially needed given the increased challenges posed by COVID-19 to people in recovery. Since the pandemic set in, we've seen unprecedented increases in fatal overdoses¹ and self-reported substance use and suicidal ideation.²

Bipartisan Senate Leads

Senator Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM) and Senator Dan Sullivan (R-AK)

Endorsements

Faces & Voices of Recovery, National Alliance for Medication Assisted Recovery, The Kennedy Forum, Partnership to End Addiction, Shatterproof, National Council for Behavioral Health, The Voices Project, Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness, California Consortium of Addiction Programs & Professionals, Behavioral Health Association of Providers, Addiction Professionals of North Carolina, International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium, and Well Being Trust

¹ Ahmad FB, Rossen LM, Sutton P. "Provisional drug overdose death counts." National Center for Health Statistics. 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm>

² Czeisler ME, Lane RI, Petrosky E, et al. Mental Health, Substance Use, and Suicidal Ideation During the COVID-19 Pandemic — United States, June 24–30, 2020. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2020;69:1049–1057. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6932a1>