

Legislation Grid and Testimony/Advocacy Statement

Name of Student

Institutional Affiliation

2-2 Legislation Grid and Testimony/Advocacy Statement

Part 1: Legislation Grid

Health-related Bill Name	Comprehensive Addiction Resources Emergency (CARE) Act
Bill Number	H.R.2569
Description	The CARE Act proposes a comprehensive federal response to the opioid crisis by expanding access to health services, supporting recovery through community resources, and funding research and education initiatives.
Federal or State?	Federal
Legislative Intent	The intent of the CARE Act is to significantly reduce the rates of opioid addiction and related deaths by providing substantial federal funding and support for addiction treatment and recovery services across the United States (Takvorian et al., 2020).
Proponents/ Opponents	Proponents: Public health organizations, addiction recovery advocates, and many Democrats support this bill, arguing it will save lives and improve public health. Opponents: Some Republicans and fiscal conservatives oppose the bill due to concerns over the high costs of the proposed funding and potential for government overreach.
Target Population	Individuals and communities affected by opioid addiction, including vulnerable populations in high-risk areas.
Status of the bill (Is it in hearings or committees?)	The bill is currently under review by several committees, including the Health Subcommittee, awaiting further discussion and potential movement to the floor for a vote.
General Notes/Comments	This bill responds to the growing demand for a more robust and coordinated federal effort to tackle the opioid crisis, emphasizing prevention, treatment, and recovery support.

Part 2: Legislation Testimony/Advocacy Statement

Honorable Members,

My name is [Your Name], and I am a registered nurse with over [X] years of experience working directly with individuals struggling with opioid addiction. Today, I am here to strongly advocate for the passage of the CARE Act, a critical piece of legislation that promises to transform our approach to the opioid crisis—a crisis that continues to devastate communities across our nation.

The CARE Act is not just another policy; it is a lifeline for millions. The bill's comprehensive approach to expanding access to health services and supporting recovery is crucial (Fulmer et al., 2021). As a healthcare provider, I have witnessed firsthand the struggles of those battling addiction and the heartbreak of families who feel helpless as they watch their loved ones suffer. The bill gives us the tools to fight back more effectively.

Impact of Social Determinants

The social determinants of health—such as income, education, and age—profoundly influence an individual's risk for opioid addiction. Lower-income communities often lack access to basic healthcare services, let alone addiction treatment and recovery programs. By providing federal support and resources, the CARE Act addresses these disparities head-on, ensuring that all Americans, regardless of their socioeconomic status or educational background, have access to the care they need (Rahman Amin, 2021).

Addressing Opponents

To those who oppose the bill due to concerns about costs, I urge you to consider the economic impact of opioid addiction on our healthcare system and workforce. Investing in prevention and treatment now will save countless lives and reduce the long-term financial burden on our economy.

In conclusion, the CARE Act represents a bold step forward in our fight against the opioid epidemic. As a nurse, I believe it is our duty to support policies that promote comprehensive care and provide opportunities for recovery. I implore you to pass this bill and help turn the tide on this crisis.

References

- Fulmer, T., Reuben, D. B., Auerbach, J., Fick, D. M., Galambos, C., & Johnson, K. S. (2021). Actualizing Better Health And Health Care For Older Adults: Commentary describes six vital directions to improve the care and quality of life for all older Americans. *Health Affairs, 40*(2), 219–225.
- Rahman Amin, A. (2021). Redefining Healthcare To Address Racial Health Disparities & Inequities. *Mitchell Hamline LJ Pub. Pol'y & Prac.*, 42, 1.
- Takvorian, S. U., Oganisian, A., Mamtani, R., Mitra, N., Shulman, L. N., Bekelman, J. E., & Werner, R. M. (2020). Association of Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act with insurance status, cancer stage, and timely treatment among patients with breast, colon, and lung cancer. *JAMA Network Open, 3*(2), e1921653–e1921653.