



PO Box 551, Glastonbury, CT 06033 • www.ctyouthservices.org

November 16, 2017

Senator Richard Blumenthal
90 State House Square 10th Floor
Hartford, CT 06103

Dear Senator Blumenthal,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Connecticut Youth Services Association, the statewide association representing the 101 Youth Service Bureaus serving 144 communities in Connecticut. The mission of Youth Service Bureaus is to provide a variety of vital support services to CT's Youth and Families. Our YSBs are closely connected to many of those affected by substance abuse and in recent years we have seen many of those we serve, both youth and adults, dramatically impacted by opioid abuse.

As you may be aware, each day, approximately 150 American's are dying as a result of opioid abuse. In Connecticut, prescription opioids, heroin, and fentanyl are taking a devastating toll. At the heart of the issue is the addiction to painkillers which often results in individuals resorting to the cheaper and sometimes more accessible opioid, heroin. 917 Connecticut residents died from an accidental drug overdose in 2016, this represents a 257% increase of the 357 overdose deaths in CT in 2012. Between 2009 and 2014, there were nearly 2,000 opioid involved deaths in 152 of Connecticut's 169 towns and cities.

The Marino Bill, which was passed in April of 2016, has tied the hands of the Drug Enforcement Agency in their fight to control the illegal distribution of the very same drugs that are killing so many Americans every day. The bill took away the DEA's ability to ensure that drugs, shipped from drug companies, were not being delivered into the wrong hands. The power of the DEA has been weakened as a result of the Marino Bill, leaving our country and our state vulnerable. The Connecticut Youth Services Association is asking for your help to fight the opiate epidemic. You can do so by repealing the amendments made to the Controlled Substances Act by the Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act of 2016 (S.483).

We appreciate your consideration in this matter. You are a necessary partner in this battle and we know if you take action lives will be saved.

Sincerely,

Michelle Piccerillo, CYSA President



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November 16, 2017

Senator Chris Murphy
Colt Gateway
120 Huyshope Avenue
Suite 401
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Senator Murphy,

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