

Congress Must Past the Bipartisan MAT Act.

The MAT Act would save lives and change the addiction treatment landscape for the better.

- If passed, the bipartisan Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment (MAT) Act ([H.R.1384](#), [S.445](#)) would expand access to buprenorphine — a lifesaving medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD) — and implement an education campaign on the best practices on treating substance use disorder.
- [More than 2.5 million Americans have opioid use disorder \(OUD\)](#), and [106,000 people died last year from opioid overdose](#). But according to SAMHSA, only [11% of people with OUD received MOUD in 2020](#). [Buprenorphine has been shown to reduce the risk of overdose death by 38%](#). But HHS reports that [40% of counties in the United States](#) do not have a single buprenorphine prescriber.
- [Black and Latinx Americans](#) have seen startling increases in overdose death rates, but are [less likely to have buprenorphine providers](#) in their own communities.
- Veterans are 1.5 times more likely to die of an opioid overdose than the general population, but fewer than 1 in 3 receive buprenorphine for OUD, despite recent evidence that it [greatly reduces the risk of suicide among veterans](#).
- OUD among pregnant women [quadrupled between 1999 and 2014](#), but [only half of pregnant women with OUD are prescribed buprenorphine](#), rarely by a women’s health professional.
- The addiction and overdose crisis have had a devastating effect on the U.S. economy and labor force, costing the U.S. [\\$78.5 billion every year](#).

Increasing access to MOUD is a winning issue.

- The MAT Act has bipartisan support and has [more cosponsors in the House](#) than 99.99% of bills in front of the 117th Congress.
- In President Biden’s State of the Union, the President outlined [a four-part Unity Agenda](#). Removing federal barriers to addiction care was cited as a key tactic in beating the opioid epidemic.
- Expanding addiction treatment is a popular issue among voters. [A recent poll](#) shows that a bipartisan majority of voters support increasing access to MOUD.
- The MAT Act has been endorsed by [431 organizations](#) and has received public support from members of the law enforcement community at the [national](#) and [local](#) levels.

“Tonight, I’m offering a Unity Agenda for the Nation. Four big things we can do together.

First, beat the opioid epidemic. ... Get rid of outdated rules that stop doctors from prescribing treatments.”

- President Biden, March 1, 2022

Congress must pass the MAT Act and take the first step toward achieving President Biden’s Unity Agenda, transforming addiction care, and saving lives.

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