

FRIENDS OF NIDA

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National Association of
Alcohol and Drug Abuse
Counselors

January 14, 2005

The Honorable Gary L. Ackerman
2243 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-3205

Dear Congressman Ackerman,

We are writing representing the Friends of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) to ask that you consider joining the Congressional Caucus on Addiction, Treatment and Recovery, an important bipartisan caucus that has been founded to advance the quality of research and service delivery to help individuals with substance use disorders.

While approximately 23 million Americans have a substance use disorder, the good news is that these disorders are responsive to a range of psychosocial and pharmacologic treatments. Further, research indicates that scientifically based prevention programs can drastically reduce the toll of substance use and abuse during critical periods of childhood and adolescent development. However, despite remarkable advances in research on substance use disorders, these basic health issues continue to disrupt American life resulting in lost productivity, secondary health problems, and premature death. Compounding these problems, patients, advocates, providers and even those researching the problem continue to face stigma that undercuts prevention and treatment initiatives not seen in other areas of healthcare. This is all the more reason to celebrate the leadership of Representatives Jim Ramstad and Patrick Kennedy who Co-Chair the Congressional Caucus on Addiction, Treatment and Recovery. We appreciate their courage and deep personal commitment to improve the lives of those affected by substance use disorders.

We recognize that the 109th Congress will face unprecedented challenges in allocating budgetary resources for discretionary programs under its charge, and we urge you to help your colleagues highlight the importance of substance use disorders by joining the Congressional Caucus on Addiction, Treatment and Recovery. Please contact Karin Hope (225-2871) on Congressman Ramstad's staff for more information.

Sincerely,

Friends of NIDA:

American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry
American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence

American College Health Association
American College of Neuropsychopharmacology
American Osteopathic Academy of Addiction Medicine
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association
American Psychological Society
American Society for Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics
American Society of Addiction Medicine
American Sociological Association
Association for Medical Education and Research in Substance
Association of Medical School Pharmacology Chairs
College on Problems of Drug Dependence
Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Entertainment Industries Council
Faces and Voices of Recovery
Federation of Behavioral, Psychological, and Cognitive Sciences
Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research
International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium/Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse
International Nurses Society on Addictions
Join Together
Legal Action Center
National Association for Children of Alcoholics
National Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors
National Association of Drug Court Professionals
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Association of Social Workers
National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors
National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia
National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence
National Families in Action
National Mental Health Association
National Treatment Accountability for Safer Communities
Partnership for a Drug-Free America
Partnership for Recovery
Physicians and Lawyers for National Drug Policy
PRIDE Youth Programs
Society for Research in Child Development
Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco
Society for Women's Health Research
Society of Credentialed Addiction Professionals
State Associations of Addiction Services
Therapeutic Communities of America