Dear Representative Kaptur,

We are writing representing the Friends of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) to thank you for being a member of 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.

Although approximately 23 million Americans have a substance use disorder, these disorders are responsive to a range of psychosocial and pharmacologic treatments. Research indicates that scientifically-based prevention programs can drastically reduce the toll of substance use 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 topic continue to face stigma that undercuts prevention and treatment initiatives not seen in other areas of healthcare.

We would like to applaud the leadership of Representatives John Fleming M.D., Tim Ryan and Paul Tonko, 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 114th Congress will face unprecedented challenges in allocating budgetary resources for discretionary programs under its charge, and we urge you to use your membership of the Congressional Caucus to on Addiction, Treatment and Recovery to help highlight to your colleagues the importance of substance use disorders. Please contact Katie Doherty on Congressman Fleming’s staff at katie.doherty@mail.house.gov or Anne Sokolov on Congressman Ryan’s staff at anne.Sokolov@mail.house.gov for more information.

Sincerely,

Friends of NIDA