It’s time that **AMERICAN SENIORS** have access to **effective, evidence-based** opioid addiction treatment

Expand **Medicare Part B Coverage** to **Federally-Certified** Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs)

Provide a **comprehensive legislative fix** – not a demonstration project

**SENIORS NEED TREATMENT NOT TRAGEDY**

300,000
Number of Medicare BENEFICIARIES DIAGNOSED WITH OPIOID USE DISORDER (OUD)¹

**OPPIOID ADDICTION IS ON THE RISE**
AMERICA’S SENIORS have the fastest OUD GROWTH RATE¹

**OTP TREATMENT IS OUT OF REACH FOR SENIORS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

1,600
1,600 OTPs across the United States providing treatment to approximately 400,000 patients.²

0 ARE COVERED BY MEDICARE.

**WHAT ARE OTPs?**

- **Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs)** are highly-regulated, evidence-based, comprehensive opioid addiction treatment programs that provide **Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT)**. **MAT** combines medication with behavioral and cognitive therapy, and the most effective solution to treat opioid use disorder (OUD).

- There are three federally-approved OUD medications: **methadone**, **buprenorphine**, and **naltrexone**.

- **OTPs** are the only place where methadone (least expensive treatment) is allowed to be used as a recovery medication.

- **MAT decreases** opioid use, opioid-related overdose deaths, criminal activity, and infectious disease transmission.³
Only Congress can rectify this disparity by passing a law that will expand Medicare Part B coverage to OTPs – CMS cannot do it alone. We urge the Senate to incorporate COMBAT Act (S. 2875) language into broader opioid legislation that would expand Medicare coverage for OTPs.

The House of Representatives has done its part by passing H.R. 6, The SUPPORT for Patients & Communities Act:

Sec. 2007: “The Secretary shall pay to an opioid treatment program... an amount that is equal to 100 percent of a bundled payment under this part for opioid use disorder treatment services...that are furnished by such program to an individual during an episode of care...beginning on or after January 1, 2020.”

Now it’s the Senate’s turn. We urge the Senate to provide a permanent fix to this deadly problem.

PATIENT STORY

I am a recovering drug addict and have been able to stay free off of street drugs because of this [OTP] program.

When I turned 65 I was told I may not be able to continue my treatment. Every day I worried myself terribly that if I had to leave my program I probably wouldn’t want to guess what would happen to me. I thank God I was allowed to continue [because of MD Medicaid coverage].

I could write a book about all the people I have seen take advantage of this help. I know this program has saved my life.

Joseph Purvis Sr.
66-year-old Maryland resident