



Script for Congressional Contacts

Thank you for taking time to speak with me today.

As you know, substance use disorders and related deaths have been rising in the United States for many years. But COVID-19 is making that situation much worse. More and more Americans are losing their jobs and experiencing anxiety and depression. Many people need access to substance use disorder treatment and we need to make sure they get what they need.

As this current crisis is exploding, many treatment providers are facing dire financial problems. Some have had to lay off staff and some have even closed their doors. So far, most have received little or no funding from Congress.

As you know, Congress created a Provider Relief Fund for healthcare providers during this pandemic. Unfortunately, very little of that money has gone to substance use disorder or mental health providers. I'm asking that you help change that.

I know that the Senate is now considering their version of the COVID-19 bill. The House bill included \$100 billion for healthcare providers. We hope the Senate will support that and include the designation of \$38.5 billion for substance use disorder and mental health providers. I'm asking that the Senate bill explicitly require HHS to use a portion of these funds for patients in need of treatment for substance use disorders or mental healthcare.

It's critically important that we address the needs of the other national health crisis, substance use disorders, and support providers during the COVID-19 pandemic and insure they are still around once a vaccine has been discovered.

Is that something you would consider?

Thank you for your time.