

Comparison of House & Senate Versions of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (S.524)

Bold text indicates provisions in both versions.

	House Version	Senate Version	NACo Policy
Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides state and local grants to develop comprehensive opioid responses and community-wide prevention strategies (§202) • Provides state and local grants to expand prescription drug take-back/disposal programs (§202) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides state and local grants to develop comprehensive opioid responses and community-wide prevention strategies (§103) • Provides state and local grants to expand prescription drug take-back/disposal programs (§203) • Establishes a drug-free media campaign in coordination with ONDCP (§102) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NACo calls for state and local flexibility in using substance use and mental health block grants funds to address local problems (also applies to treatment and recovery) • Federal and state financial assistance to private agencies for drug abuse and juvenile delinquency prevention should be channeled through county governments to avoid duplication and improve coordination of local government and private programs
Treatment and Recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides state and local grants to expand the use of medication-assisted treatment for opioid abusers (§202) • Expands definition of “qualifying practitioners” who treat opioid abuse and allows maximum number of patients each practitioner may treat to be raised from 100 to 250 (§1703) (§1704) • Allows state and local grant funding for comprehensive abuse reduction programs to be used for recovery support (§202) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides state and local grants to expand the use of medication-assisted treatment for opioid abusers (§301) • Requires the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to publish a report on the impact Medicaid’s Institutions for Mental Disease (IMD) exclusion has on access to treatment (§701) • Provides grants to certain nonprofit organizations to develop or expand recovery services (§304) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NACo supports medication-assisted treatment when appropriate and necessary, and such care should be accompanied by assessments of improvement and outcomes • NACo supports amending Medicaid’s IMD exclusion to promote better access to services • NACo calls on the federal government to provide funds to both urban and rural counties to develop assessment and treatment programs for offenders with offenses linked to a substance abuse disorder • NACo policy calls for allowing individuals who are participating in substance abuse or mental health treatment and domestic violence services to count those activities as work for the purpose of determining eligibility for TANF
Prescribing Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishes inter-agency task force to develop best practices for pain management and prescribing pain medication (§101) • Allows for partial fills of prescriptions (§1402 (a)) • Allows for prescribing (or co-prescribing) of naloxone for those meeting certain criteria (§902) • Exempts manufacturers of abuse-deterrent drugs from being required to pay rebates under Medicaid (§803) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishes inter-agency task force to develop best practices for pain management and pain medication prescription (§101) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NACo encourages the federal government to exercise its legal power to strengthen and enforce regulations and controls over manufacturers and distributors of dangerous drugs and narcotics

Note: The House named conferees to reconcile the two versions of CARA on May 17, 2016. As of June 8, 2016, the Senate had not yet named its conferees. NACo supports attacking the growing problem of narcotics and drug abuse by strengthening all approaches – law enforcement, rehabilitation and treatment, and public education – and will continue to monitor this legislation.

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Law Enforcement	House Version	Senate Version	NACo Policy
Law Enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides grants to purchase and train law enforcement and first responders in the use of overdose reversal drugs (§202) • Provides grants to state and local governments for investigative activities relating to opioid distribution (§202) • Requires GAO study on state Good Samaritan laws relating to treatment of overdoses (§503) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides grants to purchase and train law enforcement and first responders in the use of overdose reversal drugs (§202) • Reduces the “knowledge threshold” for trafficking offenses to allow for easier prosecution of traffickers (§802) (§803) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passed separately and signed into law May 16, 2016 (P.L. 114-154) • Provides grants to state law enforcement agencies for investigative activities relating to opioid distribution (§204) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NACo calls on the federal government to give special assistance to counties for the purpose of halting the flow of dangerous drugs and for programs dealing with drug addiction, prevention, treatment, and crimes related to drug use
Veterans, Women and Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorizes a veterans assistance program under DOJ to support grants for veterans treatment courts, peer to peer services, programs to identify and support incarcerated veterans, and training for law enforcement and treatment personnel on responding to incidents involving veterans (§204) • Requires the VA Secretary to expand the Opioid Safety Initiative and improves training for VA prescribers in overdose and pain management (§302 (a)) (§302 (b)) • Allows for the use of state and local grant funding for comprehensive abuse reduction programs to be used to prevent drug abuse by veterans (§202) • Provides state and local grants to prevent juvenile opioid abuse (§202) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows for Veterans’ Treatment Courts for veterans who were discharged or released under dishonorable conditions if the reason was attributable to a substance use disorder (§503) • Provides grants to eligible high schools, higher education institutions, nonprofits, etc. to provide recovery support for students (§303) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NACo supports federal funding for school and community-based behavioral health services targeted to at-risk children and youth • NACo supports funding for new federal-state-local partnerships to provide treatment to parents and children with substance abuse disorders • NACo supports legislation that authorizes investments in veterans treatment courts
Criminal Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides grants to state and local entities to develop, implement or expand treatment alternatives to incarceration under certain circumstances (§202) • Provides grants to implement medication-assisted treatment through criminal justice agencies (§202) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides grants to state and local entities to develop, implement or expand treatment alternatives to incarceration under certain circumstances (§201) • Provides grants to implement medication-assisted treatment through criminal justice agencies (§302) • Provides grants to expand educational opportunities for incarcerated offenders (§401) • Creates national task force to identify and reduce collateral consequences of drug convictions (§402) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NACo supports alternatives to incarceration for individuals with substance abuse disorders, including work release, halfway houses, substance abuse and mental illness programs, vocational training, educational programs and restitution • NACo policy calls for resources to be made available to counties to implement comprehensive pre-trial and re-entry programs, including behavioral health and substance abuse treatment • The federal government should provide funds to encourage counties to develop training programs for judges, prosecutors, probation officers, corrections officers, and other county criminal justice personnel on substance abuse, addiction and treatment • NACo strongly supports the implementation of Drug Courts