

Opioids and STOP Pain Initiative Act (S. 2260/H.R. 4733)

Introduced by Senator Schatz and Representatives Welch & McKinley

Public health burden of opioid abuse and chronic pain

- Chronic pain affects 100 million adult Americans at a cost of up to \$635 billion annually.¹
 - Back/neck pain and migraines are the 1st and 2nd leading causes, respectively, of all global disability.²
- Current medical treatments for chronic pain are limited, and opioids play far too large a role in treating pain.
 - There were over 22,000 deaths involving prescription opioids in 2015, equivalent to approximately 62 deaths per day.³ Additionally, the United States consumes 80 percent of the world's opioids⁴, enough for each adult to have a bottle of pills annually.⁵
- The opioid crisis cost the United States approximately \$504 billion in economic costs in 2015.⁶
- Despite the public health challenges of opioids and chronic pain in the United States, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) funds only \$116 million⁷ annually on opioids, and funded only \$483 million on pain research in fiscal year 2016.⁸

The Opioids & STOP Pain Initiative Act of 2017 does the following:

- **Appropriates significant funding (\$5 billion over five years) for a new NIH-directed initiative entitled the "Opioids & STOP Pain Initiative."** This initiative consists of the following research areas:
 - The Schatz-Hatch **Safe Treatments and Opportunities to Prevent (STOP) Pain Act** (S. 2678 in the 114th Congress, which became law as section 108 of the *Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016*, P.L. 114-198).
 - The bill directed the NIH to intensify and coordinate fundamental, translational, and clinical research of the NIH with respect to the understanding of pain; the discovery and development of therapies for chronic pain; and the development of alternatives to opioids for effective pain treatments.
 - Developing improved options and evidence for **medication-assisted treatment**;
 - Developing improved options and evidence for **opioid overdose reversal treatments**;
 - The **Federal Pain Research Strategy**⁹, including research that focuses on:
 - Novel drugs and non-pharmacological treatments for pain;
 - Screening tools and outcome measures for assessments across the continuum of pain;
 - National registries, datasets, and research networks for diverse chronic pain conditions;
 - Effective models of care delivery for pain management; and
 - Precision medicine methodology to prevent and treat pain.
 - The component of **HHS' five-point strategy to address the opioid crisis**¹⁰, which states: "Providing support for cutting edge research on pain and addiction";
 - A **Pain Therapeutics Screening Program**, modeled on the National Institute of Neurologic Disease and Stroke (NINDS) Epilepsy Therapy Screening Program, but focused on the development of pain therapies.
 - Other elements that the Secretary of Health and Human Services may designate.
- Provides a **research credit** for organizations that make donations to the NIH to support the initiative.
- Provides **other transaction authority**, as requested by the NIH, to streamline and expedite research activities.

Questions? Please contact Aimee Grace at aimee_grace@schatz.senate.gov or Isaac Loeb at Isaac.Loeb@mail.house.gov.

¹ <http://www8.nationalacademies.org/onpinews/newsitem.aspx?RecordID=13172>

² [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(17\)32154-2/abstract](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(17)32154-2/abstract)

³ <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/data/analysis.html>

⁴ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18443641>

⁵ <https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/opioid-prescribing/>

⁶ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/whitehouse.gov/files/images/The%20Underestimated%20Cost%20of%20the%20Opioid%20Crisis.pdf>

⁷ NIH Director Francis Collins in testimony to the Senate HELP Committee in a hearing entitled "The Federal Response to the Opioid Crisis," October 5, 2017.

⁸ https://report.nih.gov/categorical_spending.aspx

⁹ https://iprcc.nih.gov/sites/default/files/iprcc/FPRS_Research_Recommendations_Final_508C.pdf

¹⁰ <https://www.hhs.gov/about/leadership/secretary/speeches/2017-speeches/secretary-price-announces-hhs-strategy-for-fighting-opioid-crisis/index.html>

Endorsements

1. Academy of Integrative Pain Management
2. Alliance for Balanced Pain Management
3. Alliance for Headache Disorders Advocacy
4. Alliance for Patient Access
5. American Academy of Neurology
6. American Academy of Pain Medicine
7. American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
8. American Headache Society
9. American Medical Association
10. American Migraine Foundation
11. American Pain Society
12. American Society of Anesthesiologists
13. Chronic Pain Research Alliance
14. Clusterbusters
15. Coalition for Headache and Migraine Patients
16. Hawaii Society of Anesthesiologists
17. Headache and Migraine Policy Forum
18. Headache Cooperative of New England
19. Headache Cooperative of the Pacific
20. International Pain Foundation
21. Migraine Research Foundation
22. Migraine World Summit
23. Miles for Migraine
24. National Migraine Coalition
25. National Patient Advocate Foundation
26. Pain Care Coalition
27. Running for Research
28. Southern Headache Society
29. The Pain Community
30. The TMJ Association
31. US Pain Foundation