

PTA URGES CONGRESS TO SUPPORT CHILDREN IMPACTED BY TRAUMA, SUBSTANCE USE AND MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES

WHO WE ARE

PTA is a network of millions of families, students, teachers, administrators and business and community leaders devoted to the well-being and educational success of all children. We are the oldest and largest child advocacy association in America, with a presence in every state and 18,000 PTA units across the country and abroad.

WHAT WE ARE ASKING FOR

Unfortunately, one out of every five students experience a mental or behavioral health concern each year. And over two-thirds of children will experience a traumatic event by the time they are 16. Research shows a person's exposure to traumatic events in childhood significantly impacts their mental and physical health through adulthood. Congress has the power to help by passing legislation that would assist families impacted by substance use disorder, address childhood trauma, promote youth mental health and empower schools to build welcoming, supportive, and inclusive learning environments for all students.

PTA Urges Congress to Pass the SUPPORT Act (S.3393, H.R.4531) With Key Provisions Addressing Youth Substance Use and Childhood Trauma

- **The SUPPORT Act** was most recently authorized by Congress in 2018 to address the ongoing opioid crisis and invest essential resources and support to families impacted by substance use disorder. *Many of the key programs under the SUPPORT Act expired in 2023*, including a critical program that connects students in need to trauma support services and mental health care (called the Trauma-Informed Support Services and Mental Health Care for Children and Youth in Education Settings “TISS” Grant Program). The U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives have both introduced legislation reauthorizing the SUPPORT Act and its programs: S.3393 and H.R.4531.
- **PTA urges Congress to include the bipartisan RISE from Trauma Act (S.1426, H.R.4541) and the FACTS Act (S.3701, H.R.5625) in the final version of S.3393 and H.R.4531, the reauthorization of the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act.**
- Both bills are essential to stemming the tide of the opioid crisis and supporting our nation's families. In particular, the RISE from Trauma Act (S.1426, H.R.4541) would strengthen evidence-based trauma-informed care training and resources for educators and first responders, including reauthorizing the vital TISS Program for schools.
- The Fentanyl Awareness for Children and Teens in Schools (FACTS Act, S.3701, H.R.5625) would provide funding to build partnerships and training for schools and communities to better respond to, and prevent, fentanyl and synthetic opioid use by youth.

- PTA also urges Congress to ensure that social and emotional learning (SEL) is an integral part of preK-12 learning environments and is supported through increased federal investments.
- Check if your members of Congress are co-sponsoring these bills:
 - [S.3393](#), [H.R.4531](#) (SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Reauthorization Act)
 - [S.1426](#), [H.R.4541](#) (The RISE from Trauma Act)
 - [S.3701](#), [H.R.5625](#) (Fentanyl Awareness for Children and Teens in Schools Act)

Questions? Email National PTA Director of Government Affairs Kate Clabaugh (kclabaugh@PTA.org).