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2/14/2018

United States Senate Committee on Finance:

I am writing in response to your February 2, 2018 letter requesting stakeholder input RE the opioid epidemic.

I am the president of the Idaho Association of Recovery Community Centers, and am writing at their request. Our Centers are 501c3's started by grant funding from the State of Idaho, and currently operate on a mix of state contracts, grants, and local funding. Our average budget is \$145000. We were started with the belief that people in our programs would need to access other state resources less frequently, saving the State of Idaho money. Many of our participants receive Medicaid.

Each of our centers see's about 5000 people annually. These people come in to access our free peer based recovery coaching programs (an evidence based practice), 12 step anonymous groups, workshops, and pro-social activities.

Evidence shows the incorporation of Recovery Community Centers such as ours into the existing medical system helps create a community of care that addresses many of the treatment issues raised in #1 and #3, and improves patient outcomes

Evidence has shown that participants in peer based coaching programs such as ours experience fewer relapses, of shorter duration. They return more quickly to being participating members of society.

Sincerely,

Darrell Keim
Director