Kylie Knowles

POLS 353, Section AA

February 7, 2019

Major Bill Assignment

S. 8: National Opioid Rehabilitation Center Relief Act

**Short Title:** This Act may be cited as the National Opioid Rehabilitation Center Relief Act

**Findings and Purpose** 70,237 drug overdose deaths occurred in the United States in 2017. Every day, more than 130 people in the United States die after overdosing on opioids. The opioid crisis is sweeping the United States and it is essential to take every step possible to help Americans, their families, and their communities. Congress is given the power to “provide for the [...] general welfare of the United States”.The purpose of this bill is to aid the states in the fight against the opioid crisis. One of the major obstacles between patients and treatment is the severe lack of beds in rehabilitation centers for inpatients. In order to alleviate this problem the federal government will support rehabilitation centers through funds for beds.

**Section 1.**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) shall make grants to public or private rehabilitation centers for the purpose of purchasing beds. To be eligible to receive a grant, the rehabilitation center must submit a description of their current bed count, number of waitlisted patients, and cost of beds. Funds will go to the rehabilitation centers with the gravest situations. Grants shall be made from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) funds available for State Opioid Response Grants Program. To carry out this section The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is authorized $60,000,000 to carry out this section from the fiscal years of 2019 to 2024.

**Section 2.**

Nothing in this Act authorizes any department or employee of the United States to exercise control or direction over any rehabilitation institution.

**Section 3.**

This program terminates September 30, 2024.

**Authorization of Appropriations**

$60,000,000

I chose this subject because it is important to the United States. There are people dying every day and it not only hurts them, but their families and communities. Kentucky, the state I represented, is one of the states that is especially impacted by the opioid crisis. There is a lot of work being done to help this crisis, but upon further research I found that the severe lack of beds in rehabilitation centers (which results in waitlists) is one area that hasn’t been specifically addressed by legislation. I read this in the citations below, specifically “Congress Is Set to Pass a Major Opioid Bill. It May Not Be Enough to Fight the Addiction Crisis.” This bill is bipartisan and benefits Americans as a whole as well as my constituents. I followed the format of other bills that designate spending to the states through grants. I chose to have the funds come from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) because there is already a state grant system in place for the opioid crisis.

Citations

Dawson, Evan. “Detox Bed Shortage Complicates Fight against Opioid Epidemic.” *WIXX News*, WIXX News, Feb. 21, 2018,

Mukherjee, Sy. “Congress Is Set to Pass a Major Opioid Bill. It May Not Be Enough to Fight the Addiction Crisis.” *Fortune*, Fortune, 18 Sept. 2018.

“Opioid Overdose.” *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 19 Dec. 2018.

“Opioid Overdose Crisis.” *National Institute on Drug Abuse*, National Institute on Drug Abuse, 22 Jan. 2019.