

# Road to Recovery



## **NCAAR's Road to Recovery Campaign**

NCAAR's Road to Recovery Campaign is a grassroots effort to highlight public policies that help individuals overcome addiction or mental illness through life-saving intervention and education, and remove barriers to living healthy lives in recovery. Addiction is a disease that touches many. Taking a comprehensive public health approach to this growing problem is urgent. NCAAR continues to identify legislation that can save lives and encourage those struggling with behavioral health so that individuals and their families who suffer from addiction can get and stay well.

### ***Advocacy Wins:***

#### **Harm Reduction Expansion - Signed by Governor Murphy 1/18/23**

##### **Bills A4847/S3009, A5458/S3493, A798/S52**

Expands syringe service programs (SSP) in the state, establish local drug overdose fatality review teams, decriminalize the possession of syringes and permit certain expungement for the possession and distribution of hypodermic needles

#### **Bill A4755/S3261 – Signed by Governor Murphy 5/15/23**

Permits behavioral and mental health care providers to operate within homeless shelters

#### **Bill A1488/S783 - Signed by Governor Murphy 3/17/23**

Establishes Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund: establishes requirements for proceeds from Opioid settlements to support substance use disorder prevention and treatment programs

### ***The following list of bills have been introduced during the Legislative 2022/2023 term:***

#### ***Stigma***

Bill: A5096/3511

Replaces statutory terms regarding alcohol and substance use.

#### ***Harm Reduction***

Bill: A201

Authorizes first responders to obtain, administer, and dispense opioid antidotes, with immunity, pursuant to Statewide standing order issued by State health official; makes clarifying changes to "Overdose Prevention Act."

Bill: A4852/S3287

Requires institutions of higher education to maintain supply and develop policy governing use of naloxone hydrochloride nasal spray for opioid overdose emergencies.

Revised May 2023

## ***Recovery***

Bill: A3682 /S2228

Establishes "Recovery Tax Credit Program"; incentivizes hiring and continued employment of certain individuals in recovery from substance use disorder.

## ***Treatment***

Bill: A1243/S2471

Requires inmate to participate in Medicaid enrollment session 60 days prior to release.

Bill: A3538/S1845

Requires DOC and county correctional facilities to provide certain inmates with medication-assisted treatment.

## ***Mental Health:***

Bill A4275/S3461

Establishes Office of Ombudsman for Mental Health and Addiction

## ***Criminal Justice:***

Bill A2135/S268

Permits persons participation in Drug Court and other programs to earn credit against amount owed on certain court imposed financial obligations.

## ***Advocacy Alerts:***

The Harm Reduction Expansion Package includes fentanyl testing strips but lacks clarity on the protection for possession of certain harm reduction testing, such as xylazine test strips.

Bill S3325

Enhances penalties for possession, distribution, and manufacture of certain amounts of fentanyl.

Below is the list of concerns included in a letter to the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee:

- Increased fentanyl penalties will worsen the overdose crisis and criminalize the same people who policy makers say deserve care and compassion
- Fentanyl and other synthetic opioids are in the drug supply because of prohibition policies like the proposed legislation, and these bills will only make the drug supply more dangerous
- Increased fentanyl penalties will fuel racial injustice
- Drug penalties are already highly enforced in New Jersey, without any gains for residents.



**Website: [www.ncaar.org](http://www.ncaar.org)**