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H.R. 5046 – “Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Reduction Act of 2016”

Sponsor: Rep. James Sensenbrenner (WI)

Status: Introduced 4/25/16; Passed House 5/12/16; Referred to Senate 5/16/16

Committee: Senate Committee on the Judiciary

Sec. 1. Short Title

Sec. 2. Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Grant Program – Amends Title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, adding Part LL, which creates a grant program to make grants to states, units of local government, or Indian tribes in which funds provided through program can be utilized to develop, implement, or expand treatment alternatives to incarceration, medication-assisted treatment programs, programs to prevent and address opioid use by juveniles, and integrated and comprehensive opioid abuse response programs.

Funding can also be utilized for data collection by a state agency, to facilitate planning and collaboration between state criminal justice agencies and substance abuse systems, to train first responders, and to conduct investigations related to unlawful distribution of opioids.

The period of grant may not be longer than 4 years, but it can be renewed or extended at the discretion of the Attorney General. Defines first responder as a firefighter, law enforcement officer, paramedic, emergency medical technician, or other individual who responds to fire, medical, hazardous material, or other similar emergencies in the course of professional duties; medication-assisted treatment as the use of medications approved by the Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of opioid abuse; and opioid as any drug, including heroin, having an addiction-forming or addiction-sustaining liability similar to morphine or being capable of conversion into a drug having such addiction-forming or addiction-sustaining liability.

Authorizes \$103,000,000 to be appropriated to carry out the grant program for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021.

Sec. 3. Audit and Accountability of Grantees – Defines nonprofit (when used with respect to an organization) as an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such code and unresolved audit finding as an audit report finding that a covered grantee has used grant funds for an unauthorized expenditure or unallowable cost that is not closed or resolved during a 12-month period before the date that the final audit report by the Inspector General is issued. Grantees found to have unresolved audit findings may not receive grant funds under a covered grant program in the fiscal year following the fiscal year to which the finding relates. If a covered grantee received funds during the one-year period of ineligibility, the Attorney General shall deposit an equal amount of funds into the General Fund of the Treasury and seek to recover the costs of the repayment to the Fund from the covered grantee.



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Sec. 4. Veterans Treatment Courts – Amends section 2991 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to define peer to peer services or programs as services or programs that connect qualified veterans with other veterans to provide support and mentorship to assist in obtaining treatment, recovery, stabilization, or rehabilitation; qualified veterans as preliminarily qualified offenders who served on active duty in any branch of the Armed Forces, including the National Guard or Reserves, and was discharged or released from service under conditions other than dishonorable; and veterans treatment court programs as court programs involving collaboration among criminal justice, veterans, and mental health and substance abuse agencies that provides qualified veterans with intensive judicial supervision and case management, a full continuum of treatment services, alternatives to incarceration, or other appropriate services. Grants can be awarded for these purposes: veterans treatment court programs; peer to peer services or programs for qualified veterans; practices that identify and provide treatment, rehabilitation, legal, transitional, and other appropriate services to qualified veterans who have been incarcerated; and training programs for criminal justice, law enforcement, corrections, mental health, and substance abuse personnel.

Sec. 5. Emergency Federal Law Enforcement Assistance – Extends authorization of the Justice Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 10513(a)) until September 30, 2021.