

PEER Support Act

H.R.2741 / S.1329

**Overdose
Prevention
Initiative**

What it does

Strengthens federal support for peer support and recovery specialists

How it prevents drug overdose

build trust and keep people in treatment and recovery at a lower cost than clinical specialists

Who is leading it

Sens. Kaine (D-VA) and Banks (R-IN)

Reps. Salinas (D-OR-6) and Mann (R-KS-1)

Peer support and recovery specialists bridge gaps in care and improve outcomes.

- Peer support and recovery specialists are trained professionals with firsthand experience of addiction. They use their own recovery journeys to guide others and build trust, engage people who may avoid or distrust treatment, and bridge gaps traditional providers often cannot.
- Varying state certification requirements create barriers to scaling peer services nationwide.
- Peers complement — not replace — the clinical workforce, freeing up mental health and addiction specialists to focus on complex cases and reduce provider burnout.

Peer support and recovery specialists helped reduce involuntary hospitalizations in Washington State by 32%.

The PEER Support Act would strengthen and elevate the peer workforce.

- The Providing Empathetic and Effective Recovery (PEER) Support Act would strengthen the peer workforce by removing unnecessary barriers to training and certification, ensuring more qualified peers can connect people to addiction care and recovery.
- By expanding access to peer support and recovery services, especially for justice-involved individuals with substance use conditions, the bill takes steps toward preventing overdoses, reducing recidivism, and promoting safer communities.