



# IC&RC

The Honorable Katherine Clark  
1415 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515

Dear Rep. Clark,

We write today in support of HR 5102, the “Substance Use Disorder Workforce Loan Repayment Act.” The importance of SUD professionals, and the role they play in our public health continuum, can no longer be overlooked.

IC&RC is the global leader in the credentialing of prevention, addiction treatment, and recovery professionals. Organized in 1981, it provides standards and examinations to certification and licensing boards in 24 countries, 47 states and territories, five Native American regions, and all branches of the U.S. military. Quality and integrity are the foundation of IC&RC’s work. IC&RC’s credentials use the latest research on evidence-based practices, and they are updated every five years and subjected to an extensive process of peer review.

According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, approximately 22,700,000 people in the United States needed substance use disorder treatment in 2013, but only 2,500,000 people received it. Furthermore, current treatment services are not adequate to meet demand. There are approximately 32 providers for every 1,000 individuals needing substance use disorder treatment. In some States, the ratio is much lower. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that there are currently 95,000 substance abuse counselors in the United States, and that by 2022, there will be enough demand to require over 116,000. Your legislation will go a long way towards addressing these shortfalls, improving a system of care that is vital to thousands of people from Massachusetts and millions of Americans.

We thank you for your continued commitment to this issue, as you have always been one of our greatest champions in Congress. You have our unwavering support.

Sincerely,

David Turpin  
President  
IC&RC

Mary Jo Mather  
Executive Director  
IC&RC