

## ***NAATP Public Policy Update***

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Congress is in its final hours before adjourning until 2016. The length of the session is dependent upon how long it takes to reach a funding bill, commonly called an Omnibus Bill. Funding the federal government is a primary responsibility of Congress and unless it acts, there is no funding to continue government services, including addiction services.

One of the treatment community's legislative priorities is Senate Bill S524, the *Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act* (CARA). CARA would provide resources in a number of critical areas from prevention to treatment for incarcerated addicts. The bill has been a bi-partisan effort with strong support from leaders in both political parties.

Impetus for CARA has been the grassroots support from individuals and family members of who have suffered the ravages of opioid addiction, including, encouragingly, many young people. Unfortunately, in the last few weeks, this straightforward bill has been caught up in the debate over gun rights and other mental health issues. Some in Congress have noticed the bipartisan momentum and have complicate the discussion by interjecting the gun control/gun rights issue. This will likely mean that CARA will not pass before adjournment.

NAATP hopes that the momentum for CARA will be maintained in 2016 and that we can keep the focus on the original intent of the bill. Please communicate with your Senator or Congressperson and ask them to pass CARA as it was introduced.

Learn more about CARA and contact Congress at:  
[www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/114/hr953](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/114/hr953)

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