

August Action Report

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COMBATING THE OPIOID CRISIS

TREATMENT AND RECOVERY

- IMPROVE AND EXPAND ACCESS TO TREATMENT AND RECOVERY SERVICES
- PROVIDE INCENTIVES FOR ENHANCED CARE, COORDINATION, AND INNOVATION
- ESTABLISH COMPREHENSIVE OPIOID RECOVERY CENTERS

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E&C **COMBATING THE OPIOID CRISIS**

EVERY DAY
91 AMERICANS DIE
FROM AN OPIOID OVERDOSE

A useful crisis? The “opioid” epidemic of recent years is killing Americans at an unprecedented rate. It started with a relaxation in border enforcement, beginning in 2010. From 2013 to 2016, heroin production tripled in Mexico. However, instead of forcing the federal government to exercise its *constitutional responsibility* to enforce our borders, Congress has thrown billions on programs to combat the resulting *addiction* problem. The result: increasing *federal* “health care” control over a *dependent* population.

Congress and the Opioid “Crisis”

Congress is touting its recent flurry of action — the House is on track to pass more than 50 bills addressing the issue by the end of this week....

Yet the effort has largely remained bipartisan. Democrats have authored and co-sponsored bills, and all but three pieces of legislation passed largely without opposition.

— “Congress tackles mounting opioid epidemic,” *The Hill*, 6-17-18

One of the major “opioid” bills passed by the House in its “flurry of action” was H.R. 6. H.R. 6 alone combined

more than 50 bills sponsored by posturing representatives.

Unfortunately, almost all of these bills comfortably ignored the source of our nation’s recent deadly epidemic — drug cartels taking advantage of a porous Southern border. (See our post alert, “Lethal Drug War Cover-up.”) Instead of forcing the federal government to exercise its *constitutional responsibility* to enforce our borders, the House sought to throw more and more money at the resulting *addiction* problem and other alleged contributory factors. Only one Democrat opposed this “bipartisan” package.

However, the unheralded *complicity* of Congress in creating the problem

is even more intolerable than its off-target response. Besides allowing the drug cartels easy cross-border access, Congress has consistently supported the “politically correct” assault by the Insiders and their revolutionary front men on America’s religious culture, a culture that provides purpose to life outside of drugs. We are speaking of the revolutionary attack not only on religion, but also on traditional

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marriage and morality and the family — all essential foundations of a healthy, free society.

A “Useful” Crisis

The House’s “flurry of activity” leading up to the November elections comes on the heels of several major legislative actions in recent years addressing the “crisis.” This past February, as part of the reckless spending authorized in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, Congress specified \$6 billion for the opioid crisis. A month later, Congress appropriated the money in the FY 2018 omnibus (House Roll Call 127, 3-22-18). During the debate, Representative Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio) insisted:

Mr. Speaker, although I support the inclusion of a \$2.7 billion increase for opioid prevention, treatment, and recovery, this funding only nibbles at the edge of the problem. This is a national crisis.



Political deception: During the opioid debate, House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) stated: “[I]f we hope to defeat the deadliest drug crisis in history, we will need the biggest response in history. Rest assured that the response is already underway, led by this administration and this Congress.”

Revolutionaries have long understood that they need *crises* — real or imagined, created or natural — to convince populations to accept *more government control*. In 1962, MIT Professor Lincoln P. Bloomfield, a State Department veteran and member of the Establishment’s Council on Foreign Relations, gave one of the clearest endorsements of this principle.

In a confidential memorandum prepared for the U.S. State Department, entitled “A World Effectively Controlled by the United Nations,” Bloomfield argued that if the Communist threat disappeared, the world might lose whatever incentive it had for world government, unless there was “a crisis, a war, or a brink-of-war situation so grave or commonly menacing that deeply-rooted attitudes and practices are sufficiently shaken to open the possibility of a revolution in world political arrangements.”

And with their stage-managed end to the Cold War, the Insiders modified their propaganda, claiming that several of their long-standing issues — such as *drug trafficking*, terrorism, and damage to the environment — had become global crises, requiring international attention.

Congressional Camouflage

Our posted analysis of H.R. 6 (House Roll Call 288, 6-22-18) includes a large selection of excerpts from the supporting opioid “debate.” Collectively, these excerpts indict Congress for shirking its responsibility to enforce our borders, while instead seeking greater “health care” control over a dependent population. And they demonstrate the importance of rebuilding a Congress accountable to an informed electorate. Here are four examples from the GOP side:

Rep. Kevin Brady (R-Texas): “All too often, we hear stories of loved ones exposed to opioids, and then quickly *addicted, from routine surgeries* that may not have required

opioid treatment in the first place.”

Rep. Peter Roskam (R-Illinois): “So here is what we are trying to do: We are saying that *we need to resist pharmacy shopping. We need to resist doctor shopping. And we need to make sure that people can be identified who have a predisposition towards this addiction.*”

Rep. George Holding (R-North Carolina): “Mr. Chairman, I would like to highlight the importance of medication-assisted treatment in combating the opioid epidemic.”

Rep. Jackie Walorski (R-Indiana): “Mr. Chair, I rise today in support for the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act [H.R. 6]. It includes my bill, the Dr. Todd Graham Pain Management, Treatment, and Recovery Act, that passed the House earlier this week.”

Recommended action: Share our July 10th post alert, “Lethal Drug War Cover-up,” with concerned citizens and urge them to read the entire post. Invite them to subscribe to our alerts. If you haven’t subscribed, go directly to House Roll Call 288 (H.R. 6) on our scorecard to share a link and then please sign up.

Propaganda Assault — Ignore the Constitution

The way to read your newspaper today is: Between the lines!
— Robert Welch, January 1975

The American Constitution empowers the Federal Government with just a few specified responsibilities. This runs counter to the collectivist theme that all blessings flow from government action. For decades, the Insiders and the controlled media have sought to obtain public acceptance of federal power grabs as legitimate by simply ignoring any limits imposed

by the Constitution.

A recent article in *Roll Call* (6-25-18), “House Proposes Cuts to School Safety, Behavioral Health,” illustrates how the media supports that objective. Here are some instructive excerpts:

The House is proposing to cut funding for school safety programs, even as Congress continually increases spending on its own security. Some lawmakers and *education advocates* question the logic of this amid a *nationwide conversation* on school security, gun violence and self-harm. [Emphasis added.]

[FFS: We see *at least* three problems in just this first paragraph: 1) Congress has responsibility for its own security. It does not have responsibility for “safety programs” at state and locally run government schools; 2) The media regularly creates its own categories of supporting authorities, often unnamed, such as “education advocates”; and 3) “A nationwide conversation”? The media brazenly characterizes the

carefully chosen views it hammers us with as a genuine back-and-forth “national” conversation.]

“Congress has completely failed in their responsibility to make sure that children who attend school can go to school and feel that they are safe,” said Appropriations Committee member Katherine M. Clark, D-Mass.

Changes to programs

The House’s draft spending bill to fund the Education Department would reduce to \$43 million a \$90 million program meant to improve the climate at schools, *reduce bullying and harassment*, and provide access to counseling and conflict resolution. [Emphasis added.]

[FFS: The unconstitutional federal Department of Education has sought to force schools receiving federal money to accept new unconstitutional federal regulation and bureaucracy — in this case, rules, programs, and reporting procedures addressing *bullying and harassment*. America’s Founding Fathers must be turning over in their graves at such unconstitutional overreach.]

It’s Really All About Clout!

Congressmen are supposed to be accountable to their constituents. So writing to let them know our views seems to be responsible and make sense. However, keep the following in mind:

1) You generally are *not* communicating with the congressman, merely his staff who routinely *tally* opinions and pass them on to the congressman.

2) Very few congressmen will change their actions in response to a persuasive *argument*. What the congressman and staff *may* (or may not) respond to is clout.

3) A good way to demonstrate your influence to the congressman (more likely the staff) is to publish a letter to the editor in a small local newspaper (not the *LA Times*) and enclose a copy with your letter to the congressman. But if the congressman hears only from the same activist voices, they are easily discounted. So the real way to get a congressman’s attention is to build a *growing* group of *new* informed and exercised constituents who will write *occasionally*.

4) If the *incumbent* congressman *does not* respond to growing informed constituent clout, then that clout is the means that informed voters will need to make a change. Although such a change may often seem unattainable, it is well to heed the wisdom of Larry McDonald, as recounted in a September 1994 article by Tom Gow, entitled “Saving Our Republic Is Far Easier Than Many Think”:

In May 1975, Larry McDonald lectured a handful of discouraged visiting civil engineers from his district on how we could win. He pointed out that his election was the result of considerable organized educational work that could be repeated elsewhere to make change possible. To make his point, he got them to agree that there were at least 10 engineers in every district who felt as they do, at least 10 dentists in every district who felt as they do, at least 20 physicians, at least 30 small businessmen, manufacturers, small bankers, merchants in every district who felt as they do. “All right,” said Larry, “you find those 70 men, get them together and start working together as a team, working well in advance of election.... There is not a district in this country that could not be changed if you worked with the same zeal as though you were the committee to build the golf course for your country club or the committee to build a church structure for your denomination.”



The Founders’ plan, too: The late Rep. Larry McDonald (D-Georgia) argued that we should focus more attention on the House of Representatives.



And they all agreed.... Larry would further warn against the mistake of embracing partisan politics without first building an informed electorate.

5) And when an informed electorate decides to choose different representation, letter writing is absolutely necessary to prevent the new rep from succumbing to Washington, Party, and Insider pressures.

So, specifically, don't waste your time with multiple letters to turkeys. Instead, inform others and get them to write occasionally and better yet inform still others.

Recommended action: Focus on building Freedom First Society as the means to create an informed electorate and restore accountability in Congress.

Save Our Constitution!

by Andrew Carver

This month we begin a series of overviews to familiarize people with important pro-Con-con groups and their sales pitches. We start with one least familiar to many: Wolf PAC (web: <https://www.wolf-pac.com/>).

Wolf PAC declares with alarm: "The United States government is no longer accountable to the people." That is, a few Supreme Court cases (notably the "Citizens United" case) have allowed corporations and unions to spend as much money as they like on ads and other tools to get particular people elected; and also to contribute as much as they wish to groups making independent such expenditures (i.e., "super PACs"). Thus, "restoring free and fair elections," by overturning those court cases, is the constitutional amendment-topic to which Wolf PAC claims it will limit its Article V convention.

Wolf PAC is the only pro-Con-con group that focuses its efforts on Democratic and left-wing legislators. The balance of parties in most state governments tilts towards Republicans, though; so Wolf PAC has an uphill battle getting 34 states. So far, their model resolution has passed in five states (VT, CA, IL, NJ, and RI).

While many left-wing organizations support overturning these court cases via a Constitutional amendment (see the coalition "Move to Amend," <https://movetoamend.org/>), Wolf PAC is one

of few supporting an Article V Con-con to achieve such an amendment. Indeed, Common Cause is a major left-wing lobbyist *against* having a Con-con. This is why our folk working in the legislatures are sometimes coordinating and collaborating with Common Cause people in this fight.

Congress: Just Vote the Constitution!

The FFS scorecard tables and the individual legislator scorecard pages now provide a much more informative experience. Thanks to an enhancement by Andrew Carver, when you hover your mouse pointer over a measure, a pop-up (see nearby graphic) explains what the measure is about. So it's easy to identify quickly the general topic of each scored roll call and to find a specific vote without searching through a bunch of linked pages.

Action Summary

Note: Some requests below are ongoing from previous *Action Reports*.

1. **Help** others understand the prevalent deceptions in the media. **Share** recent website posts. **Follow up.** **Invite** good prospects to join FFS.
2. **Schedule** a live group-presentation of "Organize for Victory!" by FFS President G. Vance Smith.
3. **Build** public pressure on Congress to do its authorized job and roll back unconstitutional programs. **Share** with prospects our FFS website scorecards for the current (115th) Congress (online and hardcopy).
4. **Sign up** for Andrew Carver's email Con-con alerts. **Contact legislators** in your state *and others* in opposition to *any* Con-con calls.
5. **Share** the case against a Con-con and **recruit** new soldiers into the battle to Save Our Constitution!

The screenshot shows the Freedom First Society scorecard interface. At the top, there are dropdown menus for "Select a Congress" (115), "Session" (2), "Branch" (House), and "and Party scored" (Republican). A dropdown menu for "HR 6" is open, showing the title: "Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities Act". Below this is a table of legislator votes for the current Congress (115th).

State	Legislator	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
AK	Young, D.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
AL	Aderholt, R.	x	x	x	x	x	x	?	x	x
AL	Brooks, M.	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	x	✓	✓
AL	Byrne, B.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
AL	Palmer, G.	✓	x	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x

New time-saving pop-ups: With this innovation, visits to our scorecard are much more informative. (Implemented also on individual legislator pages.)