

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 19, 2025

Dr. Susan Monarez  
Director  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
1600 Clifton Road  
Atlanta Georgia, 30329

Dear Director Monarez,

I write to express urgent concern regarding the delayed release of funding for overdose prevention programs. Communities across the country are confronting a worsening public health crisis, and the uncertainty surrounding critical funding for overdose prevention programs jeopardizes life-saving public health efforts.

The CDC's overdose prevention initiative, Overdose Data to Action (OD2A), provides more than \$300 million annually to 90 state, tribal, local, and territorial health departments for overdose surveillance, intervention, and prevention.<sup>1</sup> Despite the appropriation of funds by Congress in March 2025 through the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, recent reports indicate that these funds remain in limbo.<sup>2</sup> This delay in the disbursement of funds to grantees is severely disrupting program operations and risks the lives of individuals who rely on these services.

This situation is particularly alarming given the ongoing opioid overdose epidemic. According to recent CDC data, over 80,000 people died from a drug overdose in the U.S. in 2024 alone.<sup>3</sup> As overdose prevention programs await funding clarity, their ability to deliver essential prevention services remains at risk – an unacceptable situation in the face of a national health crisis.

In light of these concerns, I respectfully request the following:

1. Immediate clarification on the status and timeline for the release of the currently delayed overdose prevention funds.

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.cdc.gov/overdose-prevention/php/od2a/index.html#:~:text=CDC's%20Overdose%20Data%20to%20Action,%2C%20success%20stories%2C%20and%20resources>

<sup>2</sup>[Overdose prevention program in funding limbo - POLITICO](#)

<sup>3</sup>[https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/nchs\\_press\\_releases/2025/20250514.htm#:~:text=Provisional%20data%20from%20the%20CDC's,their%20lowest%20level%20since%202019](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/nchs_press_releases/2025/20250514.htm#:~:text=Provisional%20data%20from%20the%20CDC's,their%20lowest%20level%20since%202019)

2. Expedited disbursement of all appropriated funding to grantees so that critical overdose prevention work can resume without further disruption.
3. A written commitment affirming that substance use disorder and overdose prevention remain a top agency priority, along with a clear plan to address the consequences of funding delays.

Community overdose prevention programs are on the front lines of combatting this public health crisis and rely heavily on these federal funds to deliver life-saving services. It is imperative that all federal funds are distributed without further delay.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your prompt and thorough response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ruben Gallego". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "R".

Ruben Gallego  
United States Senator