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(Original Signature of Member)

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To prioritize, in certain substance abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery programs, the treatment and recovery of addicted minors, and individuals responsible for the care of dependent minors who are at risk of entering the foster care system.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. DUFFY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee  
on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To prioritize, in certain substance abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery programs, the treatment and recovery of addicted minors, and individuals responsible for the care of dependent minors who are at risk of entering the foster care system.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Forgotten Families  
5 Recovery Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON PRIORITIZING RURAL**  
2 **FAMILIES AND AT-RISK YOUTH WITHIN SUB-**  
3 **STANCE ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAMS.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds as follows:

5 (1) Behavioral health and detoxification (detox)  
6 services are not as readily available in rural commu-  
7 nities. For those that are available, their range of  
8 services is frequently limited.

9 (2) Patients who require treatment for sub-  
10 stance abuse may need to travel long distances to  
11 access these services.

12 (3) Rural first responders or the rural hospital  
13 emergency room (ER) staff may have limited experi-  
14 ence in providing care to a patient presenting the  
15 physical effects of a drug overdose.

16 (4) Law enforcement and prevention programs  
17 may be spread sparsely over large rural geographic  
18 areas.

19 (5) According to a 2012 study published by the  
20 Maine Rural Health Research Center, alcohol use  
21 and binge drinking are more common among rural  
22 youth aged 12 to 13 than among urban youth the  
23 same age.

24 (6) Rural adolescents reported higher rates of  
25 binge drinking and driving under the influence  
26 (DUI) than urban adolescents.

1           (7) A 2014 *JAMA Psychiatry* article concluded  
2           that heroin users entering treatment over the past  
3           50 years have demonstrated a changing geographical  
4           composition, with an increasing percentage in more  
5           recent years arriving from communities outside of  
6           large urban areas.

7           (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
8           gress that the Secretary of Health and Human Services,  
9           in carrying out substance abuse prevention, treatment,  
10          and recovery programs, should prioritize appropriate fund-  
11          ing for activities within rural populations, especially those  
12          with high rates of substance abuse among families, or high  
13          rates of dependent minors at risk of entering the foster  
14          care system.

15       **SEC. 3. PRIORITY FOR THE TREATMENT AND RECOVERY OF**  
16                               **ADDICTED MINORS, AND INDIVIDUALS RE-**  
17                               **SPONSIBLE FOR THE CARE OF DEPENDENT**  
18                               **MINORS WHO ARE AT RISK OF ENTERING**  
19                               **THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM.**

20          Section 516(b)(2) of the Public Health Service Act  
21       (42 U.S.C. 290bb–22(b)(2)) is amended—

22               (1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” at  
23               the end;

24               (2) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as sub-  
25               paragraph (D); and

1           (3) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the fol-  
2           lowing:

3                   “(C) promoting the treatment and recovery  
4                   of addicted minors, and individuals responsible  
5                   for the care of dependent minors who are at  
6                   risk of entering the foster care system; and”.