

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**From the Office of John Sullivan**

Member of Congress

Oklahoma's First District

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For Immediate Release

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**Reps. Sullivan and Ryan To Co-Chair Congressional Addiction, Treatment and Recovery Caucus**

Today, Congressman John Sullivan (R-OK) and Congressman Tim Ryan (D-OH) announced they will serve as Co-Chairmen of the bipartisan Congressional Addiction, Treatment and Recovery Caucus in the 112th Congress. Additionally, Congresswoman Mary Bono Mack (R-CA) and Congressman Paul Tonko (D-NY ) have signed on to serve as vice co chairs of the caucus. The Addiction Treatment and Recovery Caucus is the leading Congressional Caucus of Members who are dedicated to educating and raising awareness among lawmakers about addiction issues in hopes of increasing legislative support for expanding access to treatment.

*Congressman John Sullivan offered the following statement:*

**“I am proud to join my colleagues Reps. Ryan, Bono Mack and Tonko in announcing that we have officially registered the Congressional Addiction and Recovery Caucus for the 112th Congress. This is as important caucus to help put a public face on addiction issues facing our country. This caucus is especially important to Oklahoma as we have one of the highest rates of mental illness in America, with up to one-fourth of Oklahomans suffering from a mental health condition or addiction disorder. I look forward to working with my colleagues to raise awareness and advance public policies of importance to the addiction and mental health community.”;**

*Congressman Tim Ryan offered the following statement:*

**“I look forward to working with my colleagues, especially John Sullivan, on this Caucus to advance legislation that’s mindful of a more rigorous system for not just treating addiction but also preventing it. In the most severe circumstances, history tells us that the way that these illnesses are treated and supervised must be reformed. I hope that the efforts of this Caucus will play a significant role in all aspects of the prevention, treatment and rehabilitation**

process.”;

Congresswoman Mary Bono Mack offered the following statement:

**“Substance abuse and addiction continue to be extraordinarily difficult issues facing families and communities all across America . As the 112th Congress moves forward to address the many challenges facing our nation, I am proud to join my colleagues in reestablishing the Congressional Addiction and Recovery Caucus. By working together to raise awareness of abuse and addiction and engaging in the treatment and recovery community, we can help develop effective policy solutions and continue to address the health and well-being of those facing substance abuse problems.”;**

Congressman Paul Tonko offered the following statement:

**“I am looking forward to working with my colleagues in the bipartisan Congressional Addiction, Treatment and Recovery Caucus. Mental health and addiction are issues that affect millions of Americans and I am sensitive to their unique needs. We can work together to ensure that people in need have access to health care and newly-available treatment options. I am happy to serve in the capacity as a vice co-chair and look forward to working with the caucus to advance sensitive public policy to help improve the lives of those with mental health conditions and addiction disorders.”;**