FUND THE EXPANSION OF OPIOID & OTHER SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENT SERVICES FOR YOUTH

Youth suffer higher rates of opioid and other substance use disorders than any other age group

4.5% of adolescents & 14.1% of young adults have an opioid or other substance use disorder (SAMSHA, 2019)

From 1999 to 2018, youth opioid overdose mortality rates increased by 384% and polysubstance use related deaths increased by 784% (Lim et al., 2020)

Since 2015, Fentanyl-related deaths increased: 5.1 fold in Black youth, 4.7 fold in multiracial youth, 3.5-fold in White youth (CDC WONDER, 2021)

Evidence-based, effective treatments for youth substance use exist...

- family-based interventions
- cognitive behavioral therapy
- pharmacological treatment

yet... less than 1 out of 10 youth that need substance use treatment actually receive it

Why? The limited quantity of developmentally-appropriate treatment options for youth is one major barrier to access.

SOLUTIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS:

RECOMMENDATION #1: Fund program development
Pass the Opioid Settlement Accountability Act (HR 2448) with modifications to include specific requirements for allocating funding to expand of opioid and other substance use treatment for youth that is evidence-based, developmentally tailored, and culturally informed

RECOMMENDATION #2: Connect youth with care
Expand care coordination programs and utilize them to support youth in accessing treatment services for opioid and other substance use disorders

Visit: https://www.sbm.org/UserFiles/YouthOpioidTreatment.pdf for the full call to action