

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4244

To make amendments to the names of certain agencies to help end the stigmatization of substance use disorder, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 29, 2021

Mr. TRONE (for himself and Mrs. MCCLAIN) introduced the following bill;  
which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To make amendments to the names of certain agencies to help end the stigmatization of substance use disorder, and for other purposes.

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; FINDINGS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
5 “Stopping Titles that Overtly Perpetuate Stigma Act” or  
6 the “STOP Stigma Act”.

7 (b) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-  
8 ings:

1           (1) Stigma surrounding substance use disorder  
2           negatively affects access to care and has a detri-  
3           mental effect on treatment outcomes.

4           (2) The language used to discuss substance use  
5           disorder can contribute to this stigma.

6           (3) Several agencies and a grant within the De-  
7           partment of Health and Human Services use stigma-  
8           tizing language in their titles.

9   **SEC. 2. ENDING STIGMATIZATION OF SUBSTANCE USE DIS-**  
10                   **ORDER.**

11           (a) GUIDANCE.—

12           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
13           after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
14           retary of Health and Human Services (referred to in  
15           this section as the “Secretary”) shall issue guidance  
16           proposing new names for covered agencies and pro-  
17           grams.

18           (2) EXCLUDED TERMS.—The guidance issued  
19           under paragraph (1) shall not propose a name for a  
20           covered agency or program that contains a term  
21           identified by the National Institute on Drug Abuse  
22           as stigmatizing, including the following:

23                   (A) Abuse (including substance abuse, sub-  
24                   stance abuser, drug abuse, and drug abuser).

1 (B) Addict (including former addict and  
2 reformed addict).

3 (C) Alcoholic.

4 (D) Other stigmatizing terms with respect  
5 to substance use, such as “clean”, “dirty”, and  
6 “habit”.

7 (b) STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK.—In developing the  
8 guidance under subsection (a), the Secretary shall provide  
9 for opportunities for input on such guidance from relevant  
10 stakeholder groups.

11 (c) TRANSMISSION TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary  
12 shall transmit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce  
13 and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of  
14 Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education,  
15 Labor and Pensions and the Committee on Appropriations  
16 of the Senate—

17 (1) the guidance issued under subsection (a);

18 (2) an assessment of the cost of changing the  
19 names of covered agencies and programs as pro-  
20 posed in such guidance; and

21 (3) the Secretary’s recommendations for  
22 changes to Federal law to change the names of cov-  
23 ered agencies and programs as proposed in such  
24 guidance.

1 (d) COVERED AGENCY OR PROGRAM DEFINED.—In  
2 this section, the term “covered agency or program” means  
3 each of the following agencies of the Department of  
4 Health and Human Services and programs administered  
5 by the Secretary of Health and Human Services:

6 (1) Within the National Institutes of Health,  
7 the following:

8 (A) The National Institute on Alcohol  
9 Abuse and Alcoholism designated under para-  
10 graph (12) of section 401(b) of the Public  
11 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 281).

12 (B) The National Institute on Drug Abuse  
13 designated under paragraph (13) of such sec-  
14 tion.

15 (C) The National Drug Abuse Research  
16 Centers designated under section 464 of the  
17 Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 285o–2).

18 (D) The National Drug Abuse Training  
19 Center established under section 412 of the  
20 Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972  
21 (21 U.S.C. 1179).

22 (2) The Substance Abuse and Mental Health  
23 Services Administration and each of the following  
24 agencies of, and program carried out by, such Ad-  
25 ministration:

1           (A) The National Center on Substance  
2 Abuse and Child Welfare.

3           (B) The Center for Substance Abuse Pre-  
4 vention established under section 515 of the  
5 Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290bb–  
6 21).

7           (C) The Center for Substance Abuse  
8 Treatment established under section 507 of the  
9 Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290bb).

10          (D) The program providing for block  
11 grants for the prevention and treatment of sub-  
12 stance abuse established under subpart II of  
13 part B of title XIX of the Public Health Service  
14 Act (42 U.S.C. 300x–21 et seq.)

15          (3) Such other agency, service, office, or pro-  
16 gram of the Department as the Secretary may speci-  
17 fy.

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