

## ***Campus Prevention and Recovery Services for Students Act (H.R. 6493)***

**Mental health is a rising concern for students and staff on college campuses.** The COVID-19 pandemic has had [disproportionate effects](#) on the behavioral health of college students. Elevated anxiety among students has persisted throughout the pandemic and led to higher rates of moderate-to-heavy drinking, sleep impairment, and depression.

College students are also particularly vulnerable to opioid misuse. The National Survey on Drug Use and Health found that young adults ages 18 to 25 reported the [highest past-year opioid use](#) of all age groups. College students dealing with substance misuse often feel isolated and struggle to find the support they need. Currently, the Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention section of the *Higher Education Act* (HEA) requires IHEs to implement programs to prevent student and employee alcohol and substance misuses.

The [Campus Prevention and Recovery Services for Students Act](#) is bipartisan legislation, led by Representative Leger Fernández (NM-03). It improves and updates provisions of the *Higher Education Act of 1965* related to alcohol and substance misuse to better support students struggling with substance use disorder (SUD) and ensures prevention and recovery efforts are focused on evidence-based practices.

### **The *Campus Prevention and Recovery Services for Students Act*:**

- Requires collaboration between the Department of Education and Department of Health and Human Services to support institutions in developing evidence-based prevention and recovery programs that are aimed to prevent alcohol and substance misuse and support students with substance use disorders;
- Encourages campus collaboration and service integration to holistically address student substance use and mental health concerns;
- Reauthorizes grants for IHEs to carry out the above efforts at \$15 million annually for the next five years; and
- Changes all references of “drug and alcohol abuse” to “alcohol and substance misuse” to align with current terminology and address all substance use disorders.