

Congressional Addiction, Treatment, and Recovery Caucus Briefing Outline

Working Title: The Changing Landscape & New Challenges of the Opioid Epidemic

Date XX: 3-4:30pm

Background Information & Logistics:

- WHEN: Early February or March – flexible based on availability
- PLATFORM: Fully Virtual Event – using Zoom (likely Zoom Webinar)
- TIME: 1 Hour – in the afternoon to accommodate PST panelists.

Purpose of Briefing:

- Focus would be how the Opioid Epidemic has shifted and what challenges remain going forward.
- We're hoping to have a special guest speaker (Keaton) to discuss the early opioid epidemic days through his portrayal of Dr. Samuel Finnix in the award-winning show *Dopesick*, then we would have a speaker (Kilmer) to discuss the rise of fentanyl, where we are now, and legislative/regulatory options to stop this going forward, and then one other speaker potentially on the law enforcement side/challenges.

Speakers:

Congressman Tim Ryan (D-OH): Co-Chair of the ATR Caucus – opening remarks and moderator

Congressman David McKinley (R-WV): Co-Chair of the ATR Caucus (Invited)

Congressman Paul Tonko (D-NY): Co-Vice Chair of the ATR Caucus (Invited)

Congressman David Joyce (R-OH): Co-Vice Chair of the ATR Caucus (Invited)

Panelists:

Michael Keaton: Award Winning American Actor, recently starring in Hulu's series, *Dopesick* (Invited)

- This portion of the briefing would be a back-and-forth dialogue between Mr. Keaton and Congressman Ryan. If other Members of Congress have joined, we may take their questions then too or wait until the end.
- **Potential Questions:**
 - You grew up in Western Pennsylvania, which isn't too far from my District, Ohio's 13th Congressional District. In fact, it includes Kent State University, where you went to school. (Go Flashes). Was there anything you experienced in your life growing up in this area that's been hit so hard by the opioid epidemic that you carried with you while playing this role?
 - What surprised you, if anything, when taking on this role and learning more about the opioid epidemic?

- Talk to us about the importance of spreading awareness about the opioid epidemic. Do you think we're talking enough about this poison that's tearing apart communities—whether on screen or in Washington?
- What were some of the greatest takeaways surrounding addiction you received from portraying Dr. Sam Finnix?
- One of the biggest priorities of this caucus—the Addiction, Treatment and Recovery Caucus—is to come up with ways to get Americans effective and sustainable treatment and recovery options for those with addiction and reducing the stigma that is so often associated with this. Could you talk to us about what it was like portraying somebody with addiction and the need to connect folks with the life-saving treatment they need to recover?

Beau Kilmer: Director of the RAND Drug Policy Research Center (confirmed)

- Would give an overview on the background of the rise of fentanyl and what the current realities are. Why are we seeing such a rise in overdose deaths involving fentanyl?
- Would touch upon some of the challenges in putting a stop to fentanyl
- Policy suggestions and recommendations for lawmakers going forward

TBD State/Local Perspective on first responders and fentanyl (In progress)

- Overview of how fentanyl is also putting our first responders into dangerous situations.
- Specific stories/examples
- Discuss fentanyl testing strips at how that would help day to day

DRAFT RUN OF SHOW:

Opening Remarks – Rep. Tim Ryan (2-3 mins)

- Introducing the ATR Caucus
- Recognizing the leadership
- Welcoming the panel

Opening Comments from ATR Chairs (if attending) – (2-3 mins)

- Rep. David McKinley, Rep. Paul Tonko, and Rep. David Joyce

Introduction of Michael Keaton & Framing the Start of the Opioid Epidemic (Rep. Ryan 3-4 mins)

- Rep. Ryan frames early days of opioid epidemic & Dopesick
- Kicks it to Mr. Keaton with an opening question

Back & Forth Discussion Between Michael Keaton & Congressman Ryan (15 minutes)

Introduction of Beau Kilmer (Rep. Ryan 1 min)

Presentation by Beau Kilmer, Senior Researcher at RAND – (15-20 min)

- How Opioid Epidemic Has Changed – Fentanyl
- Background & Overview of Fentanyl and how we got where we are today

- Challenges of it – where it comes from & why it's hard to stop
- Policy Recs / Challenges moving forward

Introduction of 3rd Panelist (Rep. Ryan 1 min)

Presentation by Third Panelist TBD (10-15 minutes)

- State/Local Perspective of Fentanyl – how it impacts daily life

Q&A Period for all Panelists – (Remaining Time)

Closing Remarks – Tim Ryan and/or Staff