



Phone: 512-454-0022

E-mail: debbyrsa@sbcglobal.net

Fax: 512-454-0812

WebPage: www.RSoA.org

7801 N. Lamar Blvd., Suite D-89, Austin, Texas 78752-1038

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Dear Colleagues,

For nearly two years, RSA has been actively engaged in protecting the interests of its members as NIH has debated the issue whether NIAAA and NIDA should be replaced by a new "Use, Abuse and Addiction Institute". Now that the creation of such an institute has been formally recommended to the NIH Director, it is time to ensure that Members of Congress have an understanding of our concerns with the proposal. **To that end, RSA's Government Affairs and Advocacy Committee urges you to write to your Congressman and Senators to and express your objections as a constituent to the new institute.**

To assist you, attached is a template which you are welcome to use to format your email (includes links for Congressional contact information). Also attached are various talking points which you should feel free to use in your correspondence. You need not use them all; just pick a few that resonate for you. Please note that the impact of the letter will be much greater if you describe how the new institute will adversely affect you and your research.

We urge you to act quickly on this request. Now is the time for action. Congress is beginning to express concerns about the process which yielded the recommendation for the "Addiction Institute" as well as the significant reorganization of many NIH Institutes which it will entail.

Please send a copy of your correspondence and any response you receive to Susan Barron, one of the Co-Chairs of RSA's GAAC (sbarron@uky.edu) and to George G. Olsen (ggolsen@wms-jen.com) from Williams and Jensen, PLLC who represents us in Washington.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact one of us. Thank you for your help with this critical issue.

Susan Barron (sbarron@uky.edu)

Sara Jo Nixon (sjnixon@ufl.edu)

Victor Hesselbrock (hesselbrock@uchc.edu)