



May 18, 2026

The Honorable Herbert C. Conaway
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Conaway:

The Fleet Reserve Association (FRA) supports H.R. 5999, the "Veteran Opioid Emergency Treatment Act," and thanks you for introducing this legislation. Directing the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to furnish an opioid antagonist to a veteran without requiring a prescription or copayment is a straightforward, life-preserving measure for a population that experiences elevated overdose risk.

Sea service veterans, particularly those returning from combat deployments and those managing chronic pain from training and operational injuries, are disproportionately affected by the opioid crisis. The Department of Veterans Affairs already distributes naloxone, but current process barriers, including prescription and copayment requirements, leave coverage incomplete at the exact moment when seconds determine survival. Removing those barriers brings VA in line with the harm reduction standard used in most community pharmacies and ensures that family members and caregivers, who are often the first responders in an overdose, can act without delay.

FRA urges passage of H.R. 5999 as introduced and asks that you preserve the bill's no-prescription and no-copayment provisions through final passage. For more information, please contact Theo Lawson, Director of Legislative Programs, at TheoL@fra.org.

Sincerely,

DONNA M. JANSKY
National Executive Director