



Opioid Addiction Recovery Fraud Prevention Act of 2018

Introduced by Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.) and Senator Catherine

Cortez Masto (D-N.V.)

The opioid epidemic is taking a toll on individuals, families and communities across the nation. Often those suffering from addiction want help but do not know where to turn. An industry of fraudulent addiction treatment programs, recovery centers and products has sprouted up to take advantage of this need and uncertainty. These corrupt centers target those seeking help through the use of targeted marketing practices, including online advertisements, referral call centers, and paid bounties to unscrupulous salespeople. Once they've reeled patients in, the dangerous actions of bogus treatment programs and centers only increases the likelihood of further harm to opioid misusers.

By empowering the Federal Trade Commission and state Attorneys General to enforce the FTC Act, the Opioid Addiction Recovery Fraud Prevention Act allows these deceptive and fraudulent actors to be held accountable.

Opioid Addiction Recovery Fraud Prevention Act of 2018:

- Clarifies and reaffirms the power of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to bring enforcement actions against opioid treatment scams, including deceptive treatment claims and bogus products.
- Provides additional tools, including civil penalties, to the FTC to ensure bad actors face penalties and to create strong deterrents to these unlawful practices.
- Protects individuals with opioid use disorder and their families from harmful and misleading addiction treatment programs or products.
- Empowers state Attorneys General to enforce these provisions to protect against fraudulent treatments and to ensure additional cops on the beat.