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Chairwoman Cheryl Andrews-Maltais
STATEMENT of SUPPORT
Reintroduction of the Comprehensive Addiction Resources Emergency (CARE) Act

The Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head Aquinnah is grateful to our Senior Senator Elizabeth Warren (and Chairwoman Carolyn Maloney, Senator Tammy Baldwin, Representative Ann Kuster, and Representative David Trone) for reintroducing the Comprehensive Addiction Resources Emergency (CARE) Act. This Bill would provide \$125 billion in federal funding over the next ten years to help treat the substance use disorder crisis.

For far too long, Indian Country has been plagued by the highest ratios of substance abuse, drug overdoses and deaths resulting from substance use, misuse, abuse and addiction. While this is a crisis throughout the Country, CDC data shows that drug overdose death rates for American Indians and Alaska Natives living in nonmetropolitan areas increased by 500% between 1999 and 2015, with American Indians and Alaska Natives suffering a greater increase in deaths over those years compared to any other demographic. And in 2019, American Indians and Alaska Natives had a higher drug overdose death rate than any other demographic (30 per 100,000). Yet, we know that overdose deaths of Native people are under-reported. Additionally in spite of the harm that the opioid crisis brings to American Indian and Alaska Native communities, Tribal Governments are forced to address this crisis without adequate funding, or funding that is inaccessible to us, due to stringent restrictions or funding channels that either make it too difficult to receive, or the funding never reaches the very Tribes it was intended to assist.

Senators Warren, Maloney, Baldwin and Representatives Kuster and Trone, and their teams worked with Indian Country in order to redraft the Bill to better meet the specific and unique needs of Tribal Nations. The Bill as it's been re-drafted is an attempt to resolve many of those challenges that hampered Tribes' ability to address this crisis in our own Communities. I support their efforts and this Bill, and encourage the quick passage of the Bill to help us combat the devastating effects that substance use, misuse, abuse and addiction inflicts on our Tribal Families and Communities.

On behalf of the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head Aquinnah and Indian Country, we remain grateful for Senator Warren's continued commitment to working with Tribes and Tribal Organizations, through meaningful consultation and collaborations to improve the Bill, to better meet the needs and circumstances of Indian Country. Kutaputush (Thank You).