In addition to serving as KCIR’s Vice-Chair, and as the Chair of the National Certification Board, Lee Bon- phon is also Chair of the Rhode Island Certification Board (RICB), and a Member of the Rhode Island Board for Licensing of Chemical Dependency Professionals (RIBCDP). Lee’s passion for promoting professional certification and licensing standards began in 1991 when he was first appointed to the RI Certification Board. Over the course of his career, Lee has served in a variety of related leadership roles that have included serving as Chair of RIBCDP and Chair of the Rhode Island Mental Health Certification Board. In addition, he is a founding member and current Chair of the Rhode Island Peer Support Specialist Board.

The Biden administration seems committed to creating some sort of standard certification “al certification” means. We continue to hold discussions with SAMHSA and ONDCP to determine what the goal of such an endeavor is. Without strategic investments in the workforce, this gap will not close, and more lives will be lost. This is only one part of the process, the news and current priority to recovery advocacy and for the policy priorities of KCIR.

The primary concerns remain the newly re-named Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery (SUD) Loan Repayment Program. The Committee includes $14,000,000 for this program, $4,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and the same as fiscal year 2023 budget request. An estimated 21 million Americans needed treatment for SUD in 2017, but only 4 million received any form of treatment for SUD. The Bureau of Labor Statistics data has cited tremendous workforce shortages in the SUD workforce. These programs also received considerable increases.

There is also support for our peer partners, a rapidly growing sector of the workforce. There is no sector of the workforce with the same as the fiscal year 2022 enacted level, to fund training, in particular for children, adolescents, and trauma-informed youth at risk for behavioral health disorders.

In addition to the BHWET funding, the Committee includes $28,000,000 for the Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery (STAR) Loan Repayment Program —The Committee includes $28,000,000 for this program, $14,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and the same as fiscal year 2023 budget request. An estimated 21 million Americans needed treatment for SUD in 2017, but only 4 million received any form of treatment for SUD. The Bureau of Labor Statistics data has cited tremendous workforce shortages in the SUD workforce. These programs also received considerable increases.

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