

Peer Support Act of 2025 - Section 4 Overview

Title: Establishing the Office of Recovery within SAMHSA

What is the Peer Support Act? The Peer Support Act of 2025 is a bipartisan bill designed to advance recovery efforts nationally by formally creating and empowering the Office of Recovery within the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Section 4 Summary: Establishing the Office of Recovery

Purpose: To establish a dedicated Office of Recovery within SAMHSA to promote and support recovery-oriented policies, workforce development, and community support systems across the country.

Key Elements:

1. Creation of the Office:

- Establishes the Office of Recovery within SAMHSA
- Office led by a Director with lived experience in mental health or substance use recovery

2. Director Responsibilities:

- Identify emerging issues in recovery support services
- Provide leadership in best practice development
- Facilitate training and education for peer support specialists
- Guide workforce integration and professionalization

3. Core Functions of the Office:

- Support technical assistance, data analysis, and evaluations to strengthen recovery services
- Disseminate best practice guidance to states and localities
- Promote certification, supervision, and ethical practice standards
- Develop professional development and career pathways for peer support specialists

4. Carryover of Existing Functions:

- Ensures continuity by integrating the responsibilities, personnel, and authorities of the existing Office of Recovery at SAMHSA into this newly codified structure

5. Definition:

- Defines "Peer Support Specialist" in accordance with the Providing Empathetic and Effective Recovery Support Act

Why This Matters:

- Elevates peer support at the federal level as essential to modern behavioral health systems
- Provides a national structure for peer workforce development
- Aligns with recovery-oriented systems of care that emphasize hope, choice, and lived experience

Quote: “Recovery leadership must come from those who have walked the path.”

For More Information: Visit: kaine.senate.gov/download/peer-support-act-2025-bill-text

Use this handout to educate decision-makers, peer networks, and advocacy partners on the significance of Section 4 of the PEER Support Act.

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