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Press Release



For Immediate Release

March 4, 2016

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Governor Hassan Applauds Opening of Substance Abuse Treatment Facility in Franklin

CONCORD – Governor Maggie Hassan issued the following statement on the opening of Farnum Center North, a substance abuse treatment facility in Franklin:

“Expanding substance abuse treatment capacity is integral to a comprehensive approach to combat the heroin and opioid crisis and help save lives. Today’s grand opening of Farnum Center North in Franklin is an important step forward that will provide 21 new beds at the facility as part of a broader plan for the Farnum Center to add more than 60 new beds, and I applaud Easter Seals and the other partners who worked to make this new facility a reality.

“While we have revised licensing requirements to make it easier for providers to open treatment facilities, New Hampshire has for too long lagged unacceptably behind other states for treatment capacity. In order to build on the Farnum Center’s efforts to expand treatment capacity, we must continue working to reauthorize our bipartisan New Hampshire Health Protection Program, which has provided substance abuse and behavioral health services to thousands of Granite Staters and is essential to increasing treatment capacity.

“We know that we cannot stem and reverse the tide of this crisis without providing additional resources for law enforcement and for prevention, treatment and recovery programs, and I again call on legislators from both parties to pass as quickly as possible the important series of bills before them to strengthen these efforts.”

The new facility in Franklin is part of the Farnum Center’s efforts to expand its treatment capacity by more than 60 new beds, including 21 additional beds at the new Farnum Center North, which will be known as Ray House, and another 42 beds at the Webster Place. Governor Hassan was originally scheduled to attend today’s ribbon cutting, but was unable to due to a funeral service for Retired State Trooper Lieutenant James J. Geraghty.

In addition to the legislation reauthorizing the bipartisan New Hampshire Health Protection Program, there are a series of bills pending before the legislature that reflect items in the comprehensive proposal that the Governor presented when she called for a special session of the legislature last fall.

Senate Bill 533, with an amendment sponsored by Senator Jeff Woodburn, would provide \$5 million in funding for the Governor’s Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention, Treatment and Recovery for prevention, treatment and recovery providers to assist thousands of additional Granite Staters. The amendment also provides roughly \$150,000 for an additional attorney at the Department of Justice focused on opioid-related crimes and issues, which would help the department pursue homicide charges for drug dealers. Senate Bill 533 is expected to be voted on by the full Senate next week.

Senate Bill 464 would provide roughly \$3.2 million to establish a statewide drug court program. It passed the Senate in a bipartisan voice vote and is currently in the House Ways and Means Committee.

Senate Bill 485 would provide nearly \$1.9 million to expand a state grant program to partner with local law enforcement in hard-hit communities, such as the state’s partnership with Operation Granite Hammer in Manchester. It also passed the Senate in a bipartisan voice vote. Senate Bill 485 is currently in the House Finance Committee.

Senate Bill 522 would provide \$130,000 for upgrades to the state’s Prescription Drug Monitoring Program to ensure that more prescribers can use it in a timely fashion. The Senate passed it in a bipartisan voice vote, and

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it is currently in the House Finance Committee.

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