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Press Release



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Following Another Strong State Revenue Report, Governor Hassan Continues to Urge Legislature to Approve Additional Resources to Combat Opioid Crisis

CONCORD – With the State's March revenue report showing that revenues are already approximately \$80 million ahead of projections for this fiscal year, Governor Hassan continued to call on the legislature to act quickly to pass a series of bills that provide additional resources to strengthen the state's efforts to combat the heroin and opioid crisis and help save lives.

"We must act with a sense of urgency to help save lives and combat the heroin and opioid epidemic that is ravaging families, communities and businesses across the state," Governor Hassan said. "As our economy continues to strengthen and state revenues already outpace projections by approximately \$80 million this fiscal year, it is clear that we have the resources to take additional steps to support law enforcement and strengthen prevention, treatment and recovery. We have seen bipartisan cooperation in the Senate to support providing additional resources to combat this crisis, and I urge the House to also pass these important measures as soon as possible."

Governor Hassan called the legislature into a special session last November and proposed comprehensive legislation, including providing additional resources to help communities combat the opioid crisis.

Senate Bill 533 would provide \$5 million in funding for prevention, treatment and recovery providers to assist thousands of additional Granite Staters. It also provides roughly \$125,000 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 unanimously passed in the Senate and is currently in the Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs Committee.

Senate Bill 464 would provide roughly \$3 million to establish a statewide drug court program. It passed the Senate in a bipartisan voice vote and the House Ways and Means Committee unanimously recommended its passage.

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 it is currently in the House Finance Committee.

Governor Hassan has also proposed that the state use the revenue surplus to fully fund the state's school funding plan, meeting its promises to local schools.

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