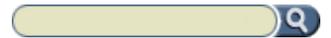


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Press Release



For Immediate Release

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Governor Hassan Proclaims Prescription Opioid and Heroin Epidemic Awareness Week in New Hampshire

CONCORD – Following a proclamation by President Barack Obama, Governor Maggie Hassan today proclaimed Prescription Opioid and Heroin Epidemic Awareness Week in New Hampshire from September 19 – September 23, 2016.

"The heroin and opioid epidemic is the most pressing public health and public safety challenge facing New Hampshire, and combating this crisis requires our constant vigilance and continued urgent action," Governor Hassan said. "In New Hampshire, we're working across party lines and with stakeholders at all levels to implement a comprehensive strategy to support law enforcement and strengthen prevention, treatment and recovery. We must continue working together every day to support those battling addiction on the front lines and help save lives so that we can stem and reverse the tide of this horrible epidemic."

In addition to proclaiming this week as Prescription Opioid and Heroin Epidemic Awareness Week in New Hampshire, Governor Hassan has also proclaimed September as Recovery Month in New Hampshire. Both proclamations are available at www.governor.nh.gov/media/proclamations/2016/.

The State's comprehensive approach to combat the heroin and opioid crisis in New Hampshire includes supporting law enforcement and strengthening prevention, treatment and recovery services. This year, the Governor has signed bipartisan legislation cracking down on fentanyl, establishing a statewide grant program to assist local law enforcement in seizing illicit drugs and arresting dealers, limiting prior authorization requirements for treatment, making improvements to New Hampshire's prescription drug monitoring program, requiring all prescribing boards to update prescribing rules for opioids, establishing a statewide drug court program, providing funding to upgrade technology for the prescription drug monitoring program and providing \$5 million in additional resources for prevention, treatment and recovery as well as supportive housing.

In addition, the Governor fought to reauthorize the bipartisan New Hampshire Health Protection Program, which has provided substance misuse and behavioral health services to thousands of Granite Staters, and she has worked to revise licensing requirements to make it easier for providers to open treatment facilities, to increase the safe and effective use of Narcan, to increase medication-assisted treatment in New Hampshire and to launch a statewide substance misuse hotline to help connect individuals with resources 24 hours a day, seven days a week. She has also signed bipartisan bills allowing drug take-back programs at pharmacies, simplifying the licensing process for alcohol and drug abuse counselors who move to New Hampshire and requiring public schools to include drug and alcohol education as part of their health education curriculum.

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