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## Press Release



For Immediate Release

November 22, 2016

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### Governor Hassan Calls for Additional Federal Funding to Combat Substance Misuse

*Sends Letter to Congressional Leadership Urging Passage of Additional Annual and Emergency Funding for Prevention, Treatment, Recovery and Law Enforcement*

CONCORD – Continuing her efforts to provide resources to those battling addiction on the front lines, Governor Maggie Hassan today sent a letter to U.S. Congressional leadership urging the passage of additional annual and emergency funding to combat the heroin, opioid and fentanyl crisis.

"Congress should now come together to provide the annual and emergency funding that we need for prevention, treatment, recovery and law enforcement efforts nationwide," Governor Hassan wrote. "That begins by including additional funding in the next government funding bill to support the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, which will allow states to implement comprehensive strategies and help those on the front lines get the tools they need to combat the crisis."

As Vice Chair of the National Governors Association (NGA) Health and Human Services Committee, Governor Hassan helped lead efforts with the committee chair, Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker, [to develop the NGA Compact to Fight Opioid Addiction](#), which 46 Democratic and Republican Governors signed recently. [With her fellow governors, Governor Hassan has been urging federal action to support states in combating this crisis, including calling for emergency federal funding.](#)

"Beyond this next government funding bill, Congress must work in a bipartisan manner to provide emergency funding to address this public health crisis," Governor Hassan's letter continued. "As the Surgeon General reiterated earlier this month, substance misuse is a public health crisis that must be treated as such in order to address the epidemic effectively – and the appropriate response to this epidemic includes allocating emergency funding, as Congress has done with earlier pressing public health threats. I urge Congress to come together quickly to pass this emergency funding before the end of the year."

"Once again, I urge you to act quickly in securing additional funding to address this crisis in the forthcoming government funding bill and to appropriate supplemental emergency funding before the end of the year," Governor Hassan wrote.

Last November, Governor Hassan called for a special session of the legislature and proposed comprehensive legislation to support law enforcement and strengthen prevention, treatment and recovery services in combating the heroin, opioid and fentanyl crisis. This year, the Governor signed bipartisan legislation reflecting most of that proposal, including: 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.

The full text of Governor Hassan's letter is below:

November 22, 2016

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
1233 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
233 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator McConnell, Senator Reid, Speaker Ryan and Representative Pelosi:

I write to urge you to include a substantial increase in funding to help address the heroin and opioid crisis in the forthcoming government funding bill and to pass a supplemental emergency funding bill to help fight this epidemic before the end of the year.

The heroin and opioid crisis is the most pressing public health and safety challenge facing our communities in New Hampshire and among the most important facing our country. Here in New Hampshire, we are working across party lines to implement a comprehensive strategy to strengthen prevention, treatment and recovery and support law enforcement, and we know that we must continue working together every day to support those battling addiction on the front lines in order to stem and reverse the tide of this horrible epidemic and help save lives.

I appreciate Congress' recent bipartisan acknowledgment of the heroin and opioid crisis and the efforts to begin addressing this epidemic, including the passage this summer of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act and the inclusion of \$7 million in relevant funding in the current continuing resolution that extends through December 9. To build on these initial steps, Congress should now come together to provide the annual and emergency funding that we need for prevention, treatment, recovery and law enforcement efforts nationwide.

That begins by including additional funding in the next government funding bill to support the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, which will allow states to implement comprehensive strategies and help those on the front lines get the tools they need to combat the crisis. Increased funding can support critical investments in interventions such as medication-assisted treatment, naloxone (Narcan), recovery support services and housing, drug courts, drug interdiction programs, prescription drug monitoring programs and youth education initiatives.

Beyond this next government funding bill, Congress must work in a bipartisan manner to provide emergency funding to address this public health crisis. Congress has recently passed emergency aid to help address natural disasters and public health threats, such as emergency Ebola funding in 2014 and emergency Zika funding in September. As the Surgeon General reiterated earlier this month, substance misuse is a public health crisis that must be treated as such in order to address the epidemic effectively – and the appropriate response to this epidemic includes allocating emergency funding, as Congress has done with earlier pressing public health threats.

I urge Congress to come together quickly to pass this emergency funding before the end of the year. The National Governors Association has been calling for emergency funding to supplement state efforts for months. Senator Jeanne Shaheen has been a strong advocate within the Congress, introducing and championing legislation to provide \$600 million in emergency funding divided between prevention, treatment and recovery efforts and law enforcement initiatives. We cannot make real progress in combating the heroin and opioid crisis without giving real resources to those on the front lines, and Congress must act quickly to get this done.

If Congress fails to pass this critical emergency funding by the end of the year, I plan to continue working to make this legislation an early priority in the next Congress. Both President Barack Obama and President-elect Donald Trump have made addressing the heroin and opioid epidemic a priority, and I am confident that the next Congress will have the support of the President in passing this emergency funding to ensure that those struggling with addiction have access to the help they need.

People in recovery and families who have lost loved ones have shared their stories, inspiring those around them with their courage and making a profound difference in the lives of countless others battling addiction. Their bravery must be marked by continued urgent action from public officials. The heroin and opioid epidemic is truly an all-hands-on-deck moment, and we must continue working to bring people together at all levels of government and beyond to find solutions and respond effectively to stem – and ultimately reverse – the tide of this epidemic.

Once again, I urge you to act quickly in securing additional funding to address this crisis in the forthcoming government funding bill and to appropriate supplemental emergency funding before the end of the year.

Thank you for your consideration.

With every good wish,

Margaret Wood Hassan  
Governor

