

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 2, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen  
Chairman  
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations  
H-305, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowry  
Ranking Member  
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan, Leader Pelosi, Chairman Frelinghuysen, and Ranking Member Lowry:

It is of vital importance that you provide additional funding in support of the President's public health emergency declaration as soon as possible. As we entered the New Year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released their 2016 drug overdose mortality figures. The CDC reported over 42,000 opioid-related overdose deaths, an increase of 28% from 2015. Worse yet, the number of fatal fentanyl and synthetic opioid overdoses more than doubled to over 19,000. The opioid and heroin epidemic is no longer the worst drug crisis in American history; it is now one of the worst public health crises the nation has ever faced.

In October, the President took additional action to address the crisis by declaring a national public health emergency. His decision was encouraging because it meant granting the federal government additional flexibility to effectively address this crisis. It was the hope of our communities and constituents that such a declaration would bring with it additional resources required to quell this scourge.

On November 1, 2017, the President's *Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis* released their report recommending new funding for the public health emergency declaration. Resources devoted to combating the opioid epidemic are largely contained within existing grant programs across the federal government. These programs are vital. But as the Commission noted, it is essential to dedicate funds to the public health emergency declaration, especially in light of the fact that the Public Health Emergency Fund is currently not adequately funded.

Despite the grim realities of the opioid crisis, Congress and the American people have worked together in a bipartisan manner to improve treatment and recovery services across the country. The Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act was landmark legislation that, for the first time, provided a coordinated, interagency effort to address the complexities of drug addiction. The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act devoted an unprecedented amount of resources to the crisis. And our communities have worked to improve state and local resources for their neighbors and loved ones. However, 175 Americans are dying each day – it is clear the nation needs additional resources to combat the epidemic.

We urge you to include additional funding in support of the President's public health emergency declaration as part of ongoing negotiations to complete the fiscal year 2018 federal budget. Additionally, we request consideration of supplemental appropriations as part of any continuing resolution considered by Congress. It is vital that stakeholders working tirelessly to combat the heroin and opioid epidemic receive additional resources as soon as possible.

Thank you for your consideration on this issue of national importance. We remain committed to ensuring that this priority of both the Administration and Congress receives the necessary funding.

Sincerely,



Ann McLane Kuster  
Co-Chair  
Bipartisan Heroin Task Force



Tom MacArthur  
Co-Chair  
Bipartisan Heroin Task Force



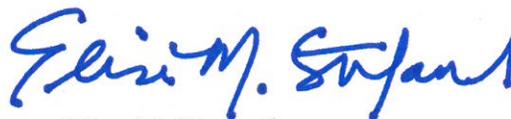
Donald Norcross  
Vice-Chair  
Bipartisan Heroin Task Force



Brian Fitzpatrick  
Vice-Chair  
Bipartisan Heroin Task Force



Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Member of Congress



Elise M. Stefanik  
Member of Congress



Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress



Claudia Tenney  
Member of Congress



Carol Shea-Porter  
Member of Congress



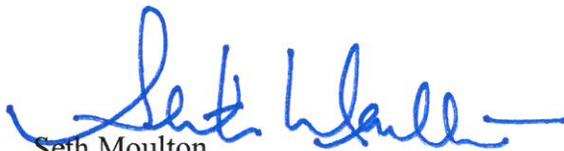
Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.  
Member of Congress



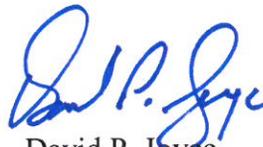
Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress



Barbara Comstock  
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



David P. Joyce  
Member of Congress



Lisa Blunt Rochester  
Member of Congress



Steve Knight  
Member of Congress



Ted Deutch  
Member of Congress



Lee Zeldin  
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress



John Katko  
Member of Congress



Kyrsten Sinema  
Member of Congress



Michael R. Turner  
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



Ryan A. Costello  
Member of Congress



Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



Bruce Poliquin  
Member of Congress



Thomas R. Suozzi  
Member of Congress



Luke Messer  
Member of Congress



Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



Rodney Davis  
Member of Congress



Tom O'Halleran  
Member of Congress



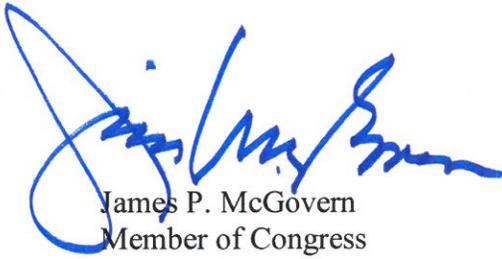
Keith Rothfus  
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



Glenn 'GT' Thompson  
Member of Congress



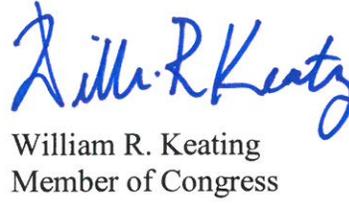
James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



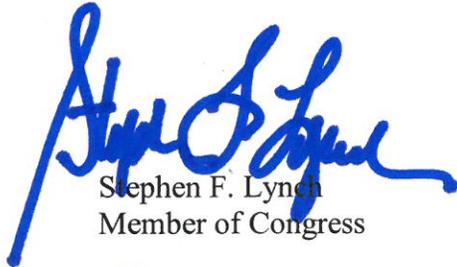
Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



Scott Peters  
Member of Congress



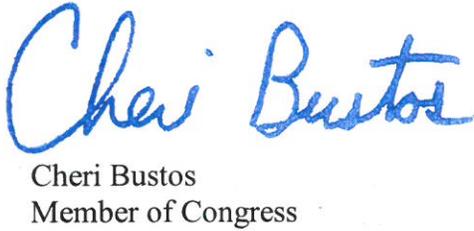
William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



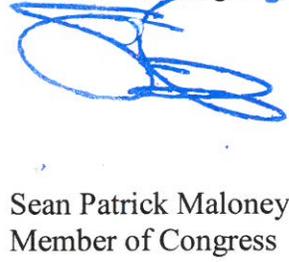
Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



Elizabeth H. Esty  
Member of Congress



Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress



Sean Patrick Maloney  
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress