

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 19, 2018

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

As members of the Bipartisan Heroin Task Force, we strongly urge you to direct the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services to renew the public health emergency declaration first declared on October 26, 2017 by Acting Secretary Eric. D. Hargan, which will expire on January 23, 2018.

In December 2017, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released their 2016 drug overdose mortality figures. The CDC reported an opioid-related mortality rate increase of 28 percent over the last year, or more than 42,000 opioid-related overdose deaths. Alarming, CDC reported lethal fentanyl and synthetic opioid involved in over 19,000 overdose deaths, a figure that represents a doubling over 2015 statistics.

The CDC's new data demonstrates the immediate need for a renewed and well-resourced public health emergency focused on this drug crisis. As the increasing prevalence of synthetic opioids makes clear, this crisis is rapidly evolving. The changing face of the crisis has made an already difficult situation more precarious. Our communities continue to suffer from the scourge of opioid misuse; we as a nation need to ensure all federal resources are mobilized to effectively address this crisis.

As you know, a national public health emergency declaration provides the federal government with additional tools it could use to help communities across the country grapple with this disease. While it is important for this declaration to be renewed to allow for maximum federal flexibility to combat this epidemic, cooperation with Congress to provide the necessary funding to properly support such an emergency declaration is vital. We urge you to work with Congress to advance additional funding as part of fiscal year 2018 budget negotiations as well as the inclusion of emergency supplemental funding for any continuing resolution.

We were encouraged when you delivered on your promise to declare the opioid epidemic a public health emergency and stand ready to assist you in a bipartisan effort to ensure that a renewed declaration is well-resourced and has the full support of Congress.

Sincerely,



Tom MacArthur
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



Patrick Meehan
Member of Congress



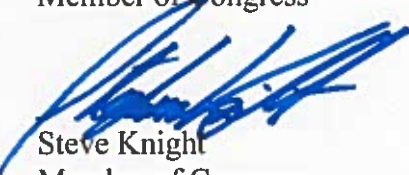
Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress



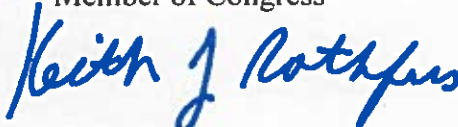
Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress



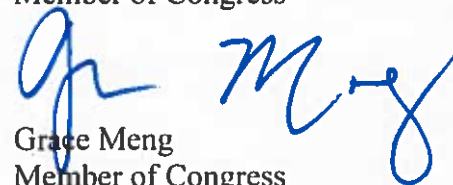
Steve Knight
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Bill Foster
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Keith Rothfus
Member of Congress



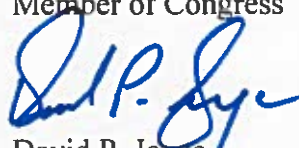
Grace Meng
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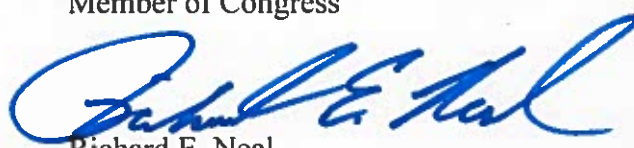
Scott Tipton
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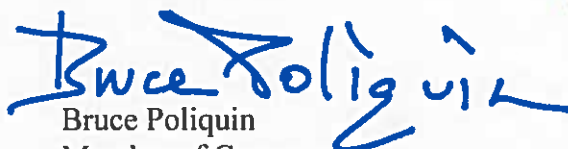
Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress



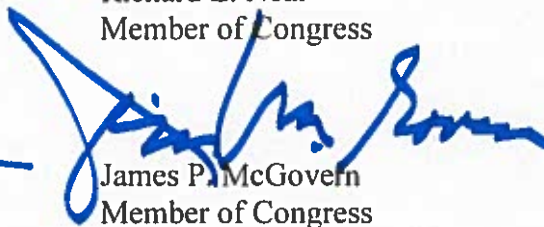
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Bruce Poliquin
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James P. McGovern
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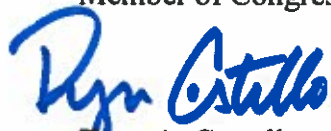
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Michael R. Turner
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Ryan A. Costello
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Barbara Comstock
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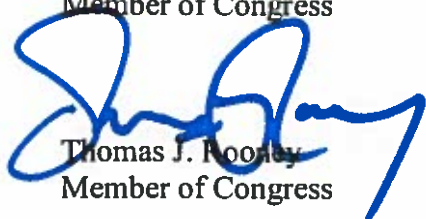
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Glenn 'GT' Thompson
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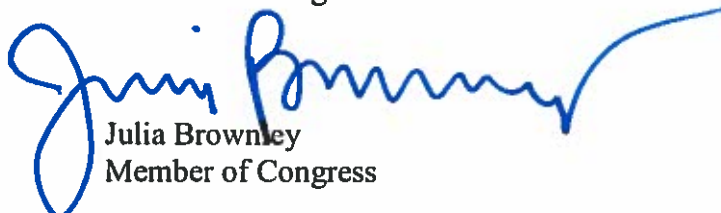
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Julia Brownley
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Thomas R. Suozzi
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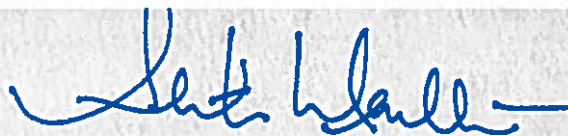
Ted Deutch
Member of Congress



Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress

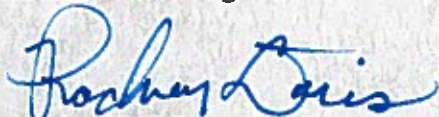


Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress

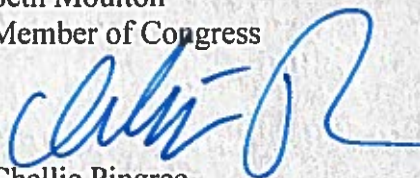


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Chellie Pingree
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Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.
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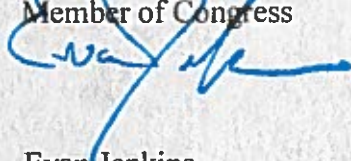
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