

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

March 6, 2019

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

Dear Mr. President:

As you and your Administration work to prepare your Presidential Budget proposal for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020, we urge you to continue to prioritize funding for the State Opioid Response (SOR) grants that were originally established in the 21st Century Cures Act. This funding has provided vital support to efforts from health care providers, first responders and families in New Hampshire who are working every day to combat the opioid epidemic. As you know, New Hampshire remains one of the hardest-hit states in the nation, with approximately 450 drug overdose deaths estimated in the Granite State in 2018. To ensure that our communities have the necessary resources to meet the challenges of the opioid epidemic, we must continue to work together in a bipartisan manner, across Congress, your Administration and state governments.

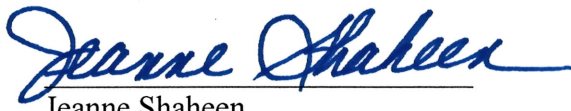
So far, significant bipartisan progress has been made to provide new investments in substance use disorder treatment. As a part of the bipartisan budget agreement in early 2018, the New Hampshire Congressional delegation negotiated a significant increase in federal investments to support opioid response efforts. This agreement called for \$6 billion in funding to respond to the opioid crisis over the next two fiscal years. In order to address the inadequate allocation of funds in previous years for states hardest-hit by the epidemic, the New Hampshire Congressional delegation fought successfully for a funding set-aside as a part of the 2018 appropriations law for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The set-aside allocated 15 percent of the SOR grant dollars for states with the highest opioid overdose death rates, like New Hampshire. The delegation then worked to help ensure that Congress retained the 15 percent set-aside in 2019 HHS appropriations. We have been pleased that Congress, through the appropriations process, has allocated \$2.5 billion for SOR grants over the 2018 through 2019 window.

These significant breakthroughs quickly translated into a substantial boost in resources through the SOR grant program for substance use disorder treatment in New Hampshire, increasing from approximately \$3.1 million in FY 2017 to approximately \$22.9 million per year for FY 2018 and 2019. With these major new investments in SOR grants, New Hampshire's Department of Health and Human Services has been able to develop, and is working to stand-up, a "Hub and Spoke" model for providing substance use disorder treatment, counseling and related support services to Granite Staters struggling with opioid use disorder. The program is showing some early successes and has the potential to help significantly increase access to medication-assisted treatment. However, for this program to make a lasting impact, continuity of federal funding will

be necessary. By including ongoing funding for the SOR grants in your FY 2020 Budget proposal, you can help to support the ongoing bipartisan commitment to this program in Congress. The FY 2019 grant funding expires on September 30, 2019. Given the scale and scope of the opioid crisis, we need to work together to ensure that resources are available over the long term to meet the challenge.

We appreciate your partnership in helping to address the devastating impact that the opioid crisis is having on our communities and urge you to retain this commitment by supporting funding for the SOR grant program in your upcoming budget proposal. In the months ahead, we look forward to continued collaboration on this critically important issue.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress