

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 16, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Majority Leader  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Senate Minority Leader  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Committee, S-128  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Vice Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Committee, S-128  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Chairman Cochran and Vice Chairman Leahy:

As you continue your work on a Fiscal Year 2018 budget agreement, we urge you to include \$25 billion in additional funding to combat the opioid crisis. President Trump rightly declared this a national public health emergency, but his declaration has not yet translated into meaningful action. In fact, the declaration will expire on January 23<sup>rd</sup> and our state of New Hampshire has not felt the relief it desperately needs. It is clear that Congress must lead the effort on behalf of the countless families in New Hampshire and across the country who have been impacted by this devastating epidemic. We must swiftly prioritize funding for opioid treatment, recovery and prevention.

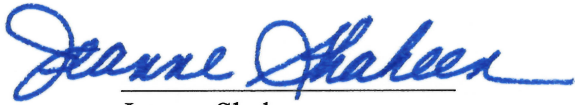
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently released new data detailing state-by-state overdose rates, which ranks New Hampshire 3<sup>rd</sup> in overdose mortality rate in the nation. Tragically, 39 Granite Staters for every 100,000 now die from a drug overdose, which is nearly double the national average. New Hampshire is not alone, however, with respect to its dramatic increase in overdose rate. The rate of drug overdose deaths in the United States has more than tripled since 1999, and the opioid epidemic has contributed to a decrease in life expectancy for the second year in a row. This is simply unacceptable. There is no question that we are facing an unprecedented national public health emergency, but the federal response has been woefully insufficient.

We have proposed that a \$25 billion federal investment be divided over two years between government agencies that support treatment efforts throughout the country, such as the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Medicare and

Medicaid. While more investments must be made, this much needed injection of funds is a critical step in turning the tide of this devastating epidemic.

We appreciate your serious consideration of this proposal as you work to come to a comprehensive budget agreement, and we look forward to our continued work together on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jeanne Shaheen".

Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Margaret Wood Hassan".

Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator