

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

July 26, 2018

Phil Keith, Director
U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Community Oriented Policing Services
145 N Street NE
Washington, DC 20530

Re: 2018 COPS Anti-Heroin Task Force (AHTF) Grant

Dear Director Keith:

We write to express our support for the 2018 Community Oriented Policing Services Anti-Heroin Task Force Grant submitted on behalf of New Hampshire and Massachusetts by the Office of Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey.

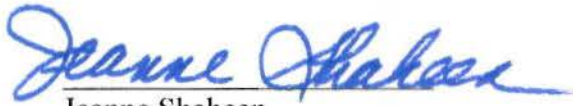
The opioid epidemic is a nationwide crisis that has affected every community, but its impact on New England has been particularly devastating. New Hampshire opioid-related fatalities have tripled in recent years and the state now has the second highest rate of drug overdose deaths in the country. In Massachusetts, fatal opioid-related overdoses increased by a staggering 432% from 2000 to 2017, and more than 11,000 people have died from opioid-related overdoses in just the past decade.

As you know, criminal networks trafficking heroin and fentanyl are not constrained by state lines. To adequately address these concerns, it requires significant cross-state coordination between public health and law enforcement officials. New Hampshire Attorney General Gordon MacDonald and Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey have proposed a unique, coordinated approach to maximize resources and expand on existing efforts. Funding this partnership would help our entire region combat the proliferation of criminal networks that are profiting off a crisis and taking lives.

We owe it to our constituents to utilize evidence-based approaches, and we request that you review the application from Attorneys General Healey and MacDonald because the proposed approach has proven to be effective, even now disrupting significant trafficking operations across our states' border. Funding this proposal would expand and strengthen an effective model. This will save lives.

As representatives for Massachusetts and New Hampshire, we are deeply committed to tackling this epidemic and strongly endorse this partnership and this innovative, joint application. We ask that you give it your fair and full consideration.

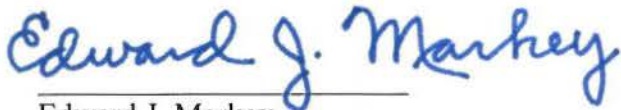
Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



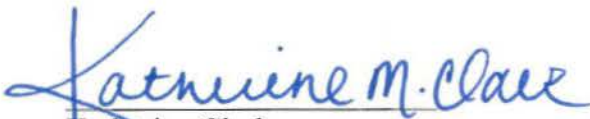
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



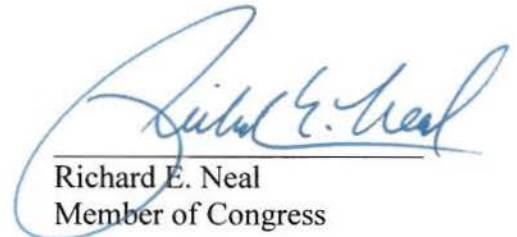
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



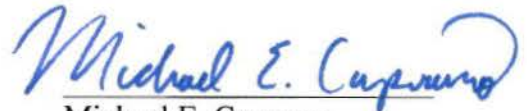
Katherine Clark
Member of Congress



Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



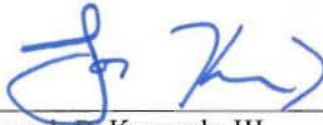
Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



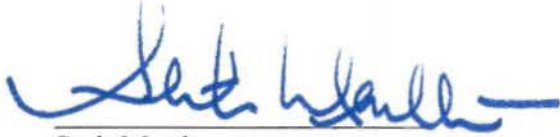
Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress



Joseph P. Kennedy III
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress