

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20510

January 21, 2020

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) 2021, we urge you to include continued robust funding for the State Opioid Response (SOR) grants in your budget request. These grants provide vital resources to states like New Hampshire, where treatment providers, first responders and families are working hand-in-hand to turn the tide of the substance use disorder epidemic facing our state and this country. Our success in meeting the challenge of this crisis is only possible if we continue to commit resources to support prevention, treatment and recovery for Americans struggling with substance misuse.

Since 2018, Congress has made the SOR grant program a priority. For FY 2018, Congress passed appropriations legislation that dedicated \$1 billion for SOR grants and set aside 15 percent of those funds for the hardest-hit states that have the highest rates of opioid overdose deaths. This funding, and the 15 percent set-aside in particular, have substantially increased the resources available for New Hampshire to combat the substance use disorder epidemic. In FY 2019, Congress built on that progress and passed legislation that provided \$1.5 billion in SOR grants and subjected all \$1.5 billion to the same 15 percent set-aside for the hardest-hit states. The result was more than a tenfold increase in SOR grant funding available for New Hampshire, as compared to 2017. Specifically, New Hampshire's allotment of SOR grants rose from \$3.1 million in FY 2017 to \$34.9 million in FY 2019. In the "Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020", Congress again provided \$1.5 billion for SOR grants and retained the 15 percent set-aside for the hardest-hit states. In that bill, Congress also provided critical new flexibility, so that states can use SOR grant dollars to support treatment and recovery for individuals struggling with misuse of stimulants, like methamphetamine and cocaine, in addition to opioid misuse.

The SOR grant program is a critical resource for New Hampshire, which has one of the highest overdose death rates in the nation. New Hampshire is using these dollars to increase access to life-saving Naloxone and expand the availability of medication-assisted treatment (MAT). However, success in our state and so many other communities requires a sustained multi-year commitment of resources. We urge you to support that sustained commitment in your budget proposal this year.

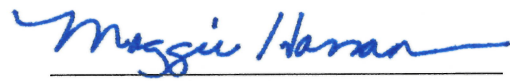
By including at least \$1.5 billion for SOR grants in your FY 2021 Budget proposal, you can again send a strong signal that Congress should continue to support the SOR grant program as we work to develop appropriations legislation for FY 2021. We also request that you include in your budget a continued commitment to the 15 percent set-aside funding that has been so vital to states like New Hampshire, while also supporting continued flexibility for the use of SOR grants so that states can help address a full range of substance use disorders.

In the months ahead, we look forward to working with you to secure funding for these critical efforts to respond to the evolving substance use disorder epidemic in our communities.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator



Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress