

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 4, 2017

The Honorable Jeff Sessions  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Sessions,

I write to express my strong support for the application of the New Hampshire State Police for funds through the Department of Justice (DOJ)'s Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Anti-Heroin Task Force Program. Support from DOJ would give the State Police the frontline resources it needs to fight an opioid epidemic that is overwhelming communities across New Hampshire.

Though it has one of the smallest populations of any state in the country, New Hampshire is witnessing overdose deaths related to illegal opioids at a rate comparable to other states with much larger populations. A threat assessment compiled by the New England High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area identifies New Hampshire as the area in the region impacted the most by the crisis. In 2016, New Hampshire had the second highest rate per capita of overdose deaths in the nation. Emergency Departments in NH hospitals saw 6,000 patients struggling with heroin/opioid addiction. Law enforcement officials have the know-how and resolve to counter this crisis and stem the trafficking of illicit drugs. They simply lack the resources to keep pace with a growing wave of opioid/heroin crime.

Funding from the COPS program would enable the NH State Police to supplement existing efforts to intervene in unlawful activities related to the distribution of heroin and opioids. Partnerships with local and county agencies will be strengthened to deliver more rapid, targeted and effective actions that drive down the supply and use of these drugs in the state. With more resources, the NH State Police will be further empowered to investigate, gather and process data and make arrests with cooperation on the local, county, State and Federal levels. Opioid/heroin crime and the associated community issues will be slowed by this responsive law enforcement model, and the burden that is overwhelming other groups fighting this crisis – public health officials, EMS, fire rescue and recovery sectors – will be partially relieved as the NH State Police assumes a greater role.

I support the application from New Hampshire State Police and urge your consideration of this worthy program. If you have any questions, please contact Jon Jarvis on my staff at 603-647-7500.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator