



## **New Hampshire Senate**

### **News Release**

#### **For Immediate Release:**

February 4, 2016

#### **Media Contact:**

Kate Giaquinto

[kate.giaquinto@leg.state.nh.us](mailto:kate.giaquinto@leg.state.nh.us)

(603) 271-3043

## **Senate passes bills to curb heroin and opioid crisis in NH**

*Bills to enhance interdiction measures, Drug Courts and PDMP tech upgrades sent to House*

Concord, NH – Today, the Senate passed three critical bills aimed at curbing the heroin and opioid crisis in the State.

Senate President Chuck Morse (R-Salem) and Senate Finance Chair Jeanie Forrester (R-Meredith) issued the following statements on the passage of this legislation.

“By passing this trio of substance abuse related bills in addition to two more already signed into law, we are effectively addressing greater prevention, treatment, and recovery programs that we expect to lessen the severity of the heroin and opioid crisis facing our communities statewide,” said Senate President Chuck Morse (R-Salem).

“These bills include a community grant program to pair state police with local officers to target drug trafficking, which has been a very successful program in some communities already. In addition, legislation passed today would provide funding for a Drug Offender grant program that provides alternative treatment and recovery programs for repeat drug offenders. We also passed legislation for system upgrades to be made to the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program which will be used more regularly by prescribers and pharmacists to prevent over prescribing of opioid pain medication,” said Senate Finance Chair Jeanie Forrester (R-Meredith).

“We’ve made great progress and we look forward to seeing the results of the programs and funding in place thus far, including the 75% increase in substance abuse funding that was provided in the budget, before we can reasonably spend even more. Therefore, as part of the funding needs of these programs, we’ve established a plan that for every dollar spent outside of the budget on these programs, one must be saved to the Revenue Stabilization Fund, totaling \$5 million, in order to be better prepared for future economic downturns and unexpected issues that may arise,” added Morse.

“The Senate continues to move quickly on substance abuse measures that will help our state beat this crisis and I am proud of the commitment this body has made to ensure that we are effectively tackling this problem,” said Forrester.

###