



New Hampshire Senate

News Release

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Senate passes treatment, prevention measures to combat opioid crisis

Concord, NH – The Senate today passed a number of bills that continue the legislature’s work to address the heroin and opioid crisis facing the State of New Hampshire.

“As a State, New Hampshire continues to battle the heroin and opioid crisis facing our residents by doing all that we can, and the legislation passed today in the Senate builds on the legislation that was fast tracked and signed into law earlier in the session. With the addition of protections like required opioid agreements between patients and prescribers, we endeavor to maintain a patients accountability and responsible use of controlled substances, we hope to reduce instances of doctor shopping and strengthen preventative measures to avoid opioid addiction where it often begins,” said Senator Andy Sanborn (R-Bedford).

“I am thankful for the Senate’s support on SB 532, which would remove the preauthorization requirement for many insurers for up to 72 hours for inpatient substance abuse treatment services. We need to continue our work because a 12-hour waiting period prior to being authorized to seek treatment is still too long and we will address that issue in the next step of the process. The testimony we heard explained that there is often a very short window of time when an individual decides to seek and access treatment and by removing this preauthorization requirement, we can get people the help they need when they need it and willing to accept it,” said Senator Nancy Stiles (R-Hampton).

“This opioid and heroin crisis requires a multi-faceted approach to finding a solution that will lessen the risk of new users. By approving SB 535 we will initiate a grant program that provides high schools with the opportunity to bring in “Alex’s Story”. This presentation will provide our students with a real-life lesson about the effect of drug abuse, carrying with it a clear message of substance abuse prevention. This is another strong approach aimed at keeping young people away from the destructive path of substance abuse in New Hampshire and we hope it will have the effect of stemming the tide of the substance abuse crisis in our state,” said Senator Jeanie Forrester (R-Meredith).

Background: Substance Abuse Legislation passed by the Senate includes

[SB 523](#)- relative to the controlled drug prescription health and safety program.

[SB 532](#) - relative to prior authorization for substance abuse treatment.

[SB 535](#) - establishing a grant program for high schools for heroin and opiate prevention education.

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