



New Hampshire Senate

News Release

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Morse, Forrester support funding, reporting requirements to address heroin crisis

Concord, NH – Today, the Senate Finance committee voted to commit more than \$3 million in additional funds to address the heroin and opioid crisis in New Hampshire. This adds to the \$80 million that the state is already spending to tackle the issue.

Senate President Chuck Morse (R-Salem) and Senate Finance Chair Jeanie Forrester (R-Meredith) issued statements following the committee vote.

“We are committed to supporting increased efforts to fight the heroin and opioid crisis, evidenced by our support of this bill, SB 533, and numerous other bills that the legislature acted on quickly this session,” said Senate President Chuck Morse (R-Salem).

“The bill passed today builds on what we have already done, adding \$2.5 million from unspent funds to the Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery which may be used for substance abuse treatment housing, or other prevention and treatment programs, while also funding a new position in the Attorney General's office that will focus solely on prosecuting drug offenders.”

“We believe there are unspent funds that could have already been allocated if the Governor was more transparent about her budgeting,” said Morse.

“We have spent countless hours working to fast-track legislation targeting prevention, treatment and recovery efforts that get to the heart of this tragic crisis. It is important that we evaluate which programs have proven to be most effective in curbing this crisis. We did that today when we voted to expand reporting requirements for the Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery. This legislation also provides additional funding from unspent funds to address this crisis from the perspectives of both treatment and prevention,” said Senate Finance Chair Jeanie Forrester (R-Meredith).

“We have committed to nearly \$30 million for priorities outside of the budget including substance abuse programs like drug courts, the drug interdiction grant program and upgrades for the Prescription Drug Monitoring program. In addition to that, the Finance committee is aware of more than \$45 million in potential spending needs outside the budget that we continue to watch to make sure we are acting as good stewards of our resources and living within our means,” said Forrester.

“It is disappointing to see that New Hampshire's Governor is focused on politicizing the heroin and opioid crisis instead of providing creative solutions to solve many of the issues that still exist today. I encourage Governor Hassan to put politics aside and direct her efforts to ending this crisis,” said Forrester.

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