

NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER  
OF POLICE,

Washington, DC, February 29, 2016.

Hon. JEANNE SHAHEEN,  
U.S. Senate,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR SHAHEEN: I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our support for your bill S. 2423, the "Opioid and Heroin Epidemic Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act." This legislation will make available \$210 million to help law enforcement fight the heroin and opioid epidemic that is destroying our communities.

This bill will help our State and local law enforcement officers by giving them the necessary funding and tools to battle their communities' heroin and opioid problems. This funding will be used for expenses relating to drug treatment and enforcement programs, law enforcement programming, and drug addiction prevention and education programs. Something needs to be done and Congress is correct to provide law enforcement with the resources we need to combat this epidemic.

On behalf of more than 330,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, I thank you for your continued leadership and support of law enforcement. I look forward to working with you and your staff to get this bill through Congress to put an end to the heroin and opioid epidemic. If I can be of any additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me or my Executive Director Jim Pasco at my Washington office.

Sincerely,

CHUCK CANTERBURY,  
National President.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. We have also received support from groups such as the American Academy of Pain Management; the American Public Health Association; the American Society of Addiction Medicine; the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses; the Partnership for Drug-Free Kids; the American College of Physicians; and the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the list of groups.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL FOR HEROIN AND  
OPIOID ABUSE SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

Fraternal Order of Police, American Academy of Pain Management, American College of Physicians, American College of Sports Medicine, American Osteopathic Association, American Public Health Association, American Society of Addiction Medicine, Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses, College on Problems of Drug Dependence, Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America.

Connecticut Certification Board, Friends of NIDA, IC & RC, Illinois Alcoholism and Drug Dependence Association, California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals, National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors, Partnership for Drug-Free Kids, Physician Assistant Education Association, SAI, Trust for America's Health.

NATIONAL GOVERNOR'S ASSOCIATION  
STATEMENT

Provide emergency supplemental funding to help states and communities turn the tide on the opioid epidemic. Governors applaud the introduction of legislation that would

provide emergency assistance to states working on the front lines of the opioid crisis. Congress has provided billions in emergency aid to address natural disasters, security threats and other crises, including more than \$5 billion last year to combat Ebola at home and abroad. A similar investment is needed to help states mount an effective response to opioid addiction, from increasing prevention and education regarding the dangers of illicit drugs to strengthening state prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs), expanding access to addiction treatment and enhancing support for law enforcement.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. The question is, Why do we need emergency funding? Some of my colleagues have argued that additional funds are not needed because there was enough money for the opioid crisis in last year's omnibus. Yes, it is true there is additional funding for these programs in the omnibus. I sit on the Appropriations Committee; I was one of many on that committee who worked very hard to fight for those dollars. But with spending caps in place, these increases are modest at best.

The majority of my supplemental amendment appropriates resources to two programs: the substance abuse prevention and treatment block grant and the Byrne JAG Program. These programs have been critically underfunded in recent years. For example, the substance abuse prevention and treatment block grant received a small increase in the omnibus. That was good, but the reality is that over the last 10 years, funding for this program has not kept up with health care inflation. So we have a 26-percent decrease in the real value of funding despite the small increase we got in the appropriations process. In order to restore the block grant to its purchasing power from 10 years ago—10 years ago, before we had the explosion of the opioid and heroin crisis—just to get back to that level, Congress would need to allocate an additional \$483 million for fiscal year 2017. My amendment provides \$300 million for this program. It is a downpayment—only a downpayment—on where we need to be. The Byrne JAG Program has been flat-funded for the last 3 years.

Fifteen years ago—again, before the explosion of the heroin and opioid crisis—Congress provided more than \$1 billion in support to State and local law enforcement through Byrne JAG and block grant funding. By 2015 that number had been reduced to \$376 million. Right now, despite the explosion in this heroin and opioid crisis, we are providing only about one-third of the support we provided 15 years ago.

The reality is that criminal justice and prevention and treatment have been chronically underfunded and, as a result, deaths have continued to rise.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has consumed 27 minutes.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Thank you, Mr. President. I should be finished shortly.

We have talked to the Department of Justice and to Health and Human Serv-

ices, and they are ready to get this funding out the door immediately because there is no time to wait. Law enforcement and health care providers on the frontlines need this money, and they need this money now.

In the past, Congress has risen to the challenge of epidemics. In 2009, Congress appropriated nearly \$2 billion in emergency funding to fight swine flu, which claimed the lives of about 12,000 Americans. That emergency appropriations bill passed the Senate 86 to 3. Mr. President, 51 Senators who voted for that bill are still serving in this Chamber, including 23 Republican Senators and every Member of the Republican leadership. Last year, Congress approved \$5.4 billion in funding to combat the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, an outbreak that killed only one American. Surely we can come together now, this year, in this session, to fight a raging epidemic here at home. We cannot avert our eyes from 47,000 Americans who are being killed by lethal overdoses each year. We cannot accept that 9 out of 10 Americans with substance abuse disorders go without treatment. We cannot avoid the fact that law enforcement officers in communities across this country are overwhelmed by aggressive drug traffickers and a rising tide of opioid-related crimes.

CARA will help fight the heroin and opioid epidemic in the longer term, but I urge my colleagues to also support this emergency supplemental funding amendment because it will provide urgent emergency funding to ramp up this fight in the months immediately ahead. This is a nationwide crisis, and it is time we mobilize a nationwide response that is equal to the challenge.

I urge my colleagues, I urge the majority leader to allow a vote on my amendment and to pass this out so we can give our local communities and States the resources they need.

I yield the floor.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess as under the previous order.

RECESS

There being no objection, the Senate, at 12:23 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. PORTMAN).

COMPREHENSIVE ADDICTION AND  
RECOVERY ACT OF 2015—MOTION  
TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, you know more than just about anybody else here