

The New England Association of Chiefs of Police, Inc.

(Established 1926)

www.neacop.org



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February 29, 2016

Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-230 Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell:

I write to you on behalf of the New England Association of Chiefs of Police (NEACOP)—which represents law enforcement from New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Vermont, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Maine—to urge the Senate to pass the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (S. 524).

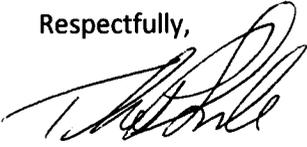
This bipartisan legislation was reintroduced in February 2015 by Senators Sheldon Whitehouse, Rob Portman, Kelly Ayotte, and Amy Klobuchar. Earlier this month, the Senate Judiciary Committee passed the legislation unanimously.

In January 2016, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that during 2014 there were 47,055 drug overdose deaths in the United States. Unfortunately, New England has been particularly impacted by this public safety crisis, and communities throughout the region continue to face opioid overdose deaths. The quality of life in our communities is being immeasurably impacted by the presence of heroin and fentanyl on our streets. We are working tirelessly every day to do our part to help find solutions to this scourge—and that includes working collaboratively with those in the prevention, education, treatment, and recovery communities.

S. 524 embodies a broad-based strategy that we need from the federal government in order to support the efforts of state and local law enforcement. S. 524 will expand the availability of naloxone to law enforcement and other first responders, expand prevention and awareness efforts, expand drug take-back efforts, and also authorize the U.S. Department of Justice to make grants to state law enforcement agencies to investigate illicit drug activities.

The NEACOP supports a comprehensive approach to solving this problem, and that is why we are pleased to endorse S. 524 and ask the Senate to pass it swiftly.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Theodore P. Smith', written in a cursive style.

Theodore P Smith
President