



One Municipal Drive Derry, NH 03038 www.nhchiefsofpolice.com

New Hampshire Association of Chiefs of Police

February 29, 2016

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

Honorable Harry Reid
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-221 Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Reid:

I am writing on behalf of the New Hampshire Association of Chiefs of Police to urge the Senate to take up and pass the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA, S. 524). This bipartisan legislation was reintroduced over a year ago by Senators Sheldon Whitehouse, Rob Portman, Kelly Ayotte, and Amy Klobuchar and passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee with unanimous support on February 11, 2016.

New Hampshire is currently experiencing a public health and safety crisis unlike any other we have confronted before—that of prescription opioid abuse and heroin use, and the increasing presence of a dangerous drug called fentanyl. While law enforcement is working diligently to remove heroin and fentanyl from our communities and first responders throughout the state are saving lives of would-be fatal overdose victims, we must simultaneously work to ensure that appropriate policies focused on prevention, education, treatment, and support for individuals in recovery are in place to help support our work on the front lines every day.

The New Hampshire Chief Medical Examiner's Office reports that there were 420 fatal drug overdoses in 2015—157 of which could be attributed to fentanyl alone, and 43 of which could be attributed to a combination of heroin and fentanyl. In 2014, New Hampshire reported 326 drug overdose deaths, up from 192 in 2013. New Hampshire is not alone in experiencing this dramatic increase in fatal opioid overdoses.

CARA embodies the comprehensive strategy that we need from Congress in order to support the efforts of state and local first responders. It will expand the availability of the life-saving opioid overdose reversal drug naloxone to law enforcement and other first responders expand prevention and awareness efforts—including a much-needed focus on the association between prescription opioid misuse and heroin use and the potency of Fentanyl. In addition, the legislation will expand drug take-back efforts to keep unused or unwanted prescription opioids from those for whom they are not intended. The legislation also authorizes the U.S. Attorney General to make grants to state law enforcement agencies for the purposes of investigating illicit drug activities.

For the reasons outlined above, we support CARA and respectfully urge all Senators to support this critical legislation. We hope that you will work to pass it as soon as possible.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Cormier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Chief Robert Cormier
Tilton NH Police Department
President
New Hampshire Association of Chiefs of Police