



December 8, 2016

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
United States House of Representatives
1233 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
United States House of Representatives
233 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Leader McConnell, Leader Reid, Speaker Ryan and Leader Pelosi,

We write to share with you the report and recommendations of the National City-County Task Force on the Opioid Epidemic, which was jointly convened earlier this year by the National Association of Counties and National League of Cities. The task force report (available at opioidaction.org/PDF), titled *A Prescription for Action: Local Leadership in Ending the Opioid Crisis*, highlights local practices and policies that are helping to reduce rates of opioid overdoses and fatalities. The report also offers recommendations for local, state and federal actions needed to put an end to this devastating public health crisis. **As you prepare for the final days of legislative activity in the 114th Congress, we respectfully urge you to consider the task force's report and recommendations, and in particular, to urgently appropriate significant funds for local efforts to overcome the opioid epidemic.**

In *A Prescription for Action*, the task force writes that "local governments are struggling to find sufficient funding to provide medication-assisted treatment programs, expand drug abuse prevention and education efforts, purchase sufficient quantities of naloxone and implement useful drug take-back programs. The federal government must quickly pass legislation to provide emergency supplemental funding to assist local governments through grants that would help expand and improve existing efforts to address the opioid epidemic in local communities across the nation."

Taking action to appropriate significant additional funding in the 114th Congress for local opioid programs would represent another important step forward in our collective efforts to end the opioid epidemic. Over the past two years, leaders at all levels of government have worked with urgency to address the opioid crisis, resulting in local innovations and changes to state and federal policies related to addiction. The passage of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act and the 21st Century Cures Act with broad, bipartisan support in both chambers of Congress was perhaps the most significant demonstration of our collective concern for this crisis – and it is our hope that the 114th Congress concludes its response to the opioid epidemic by appropriating the significant funding needed to support programs and activities that can help to reverse the trends of this epidemic.

America's cities and counties commend you for the important steps you have taken towards addressing the opioid crisis, and stand ready to work with you towards the mutual goal of making our communities healthier, safer and more resilient.

Signed,

Mayor Mark Stodola
Little Rock, Arkansas

Judge Gary Moore
Boone County, Kentucky