

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 12, 2017

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden
Chairman
House Committee on Energy & Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member
House Committee on Energy & Commerce
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte
Chairman
House Committee on the Judiciary
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jerry Nadler
Ranking Member
House Committee on the Judiciary
2141 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Chairman
House Committee on Ways and Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal
Ranking Member
House Committee on Ways and Means
1139E Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen, Chairman Walden, Chairman Goodlatte, Chairman Brady,
Ranking Member Lowey, Ranking Member Pallone, Ranking Member Nadler, and Ranking
Member Neal:

We write today to urge you to implement the legislative elements of the recommendations
proposed by the President's Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis'
("Commission") Final Report that fall within your respective jurisdictions.

As you know, the opioid epidemic remains a scourge across the United States. Ninety-one
Americans die every day as the result of an opioid overdose. Estimates suggest that of the
approximately 91.8 million Americans who used prescription opioids in 2016 – more than one-
third of the U.S. population – 11.5 million (4.3%) misused them. Another 630,000 Americans,
and likely more, suffer from a heroin use disorder. To make matters worse, deadly synthetic
opioids like fentanyl and carfentanil, which can be 50 to 5,000 times stronger than heroin, are
appearing at alarm rates. The epidemic's victims are as diverse as the country itself, and few

families have been completely spared its devastating effects. It has wrought havoc in both cities and rural areas, damaged neighborhoods of every socioeconomic status, and torn apart families of every race, religion, and age.

The Commission's Final Report outlines numerous approaches federal policymakers should deploy in an effort to turn the tide in the battle against opioid abuse and addiction. It delivers a full complement of recommendations, including modifying existing federal funding and programs; preventing opioid addiction before it starts; refining prescribing guidelines, regulations, and education; enhancing the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program; reducing supply and increasing enforcement; improving opioid addiction treatment, overdose reversal, and recovery; and optimizing research and development initiatives. We urge you, in the strongest possible terms, to pursue all legislative avenues to advance and carry out the solutions outlined by the Commission's Final Report. We must utilize all viable resources to combat the opiate epidemic and mitigate the dire situations that so many of our constituents and communities are currently facing.

We look forward to working in cooperation with you to reduce the impact of the opioid epidemic in our districts and on our constituents. Together, we can – and will – overcome this drug crisis.

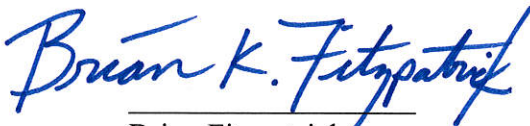
Sincerely,



Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress



Luke Messer
Member of Congress



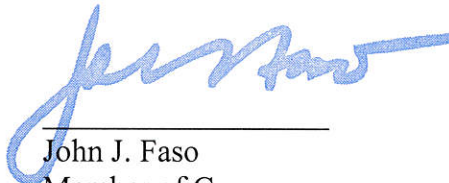
Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Rodney Davis
Member of Congress



Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.
Member of Congress



John J. Faso
Member of Congress



John Katko
Member of Congress