

## **Senator Manchin's Work to Combat the Opioid Epidemic**

**February 1, 2021:** Senators Manchin and John Cornyn (R-TX) reintroduced the *See Something, Say Something Online Act* to stop the illicit sale of opioids and other drugs online by amending Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act to require companies report illegal activity on their online platforms.

**January 13, 2021:** Senator Manchin announced that six West Virginia counties are now eligible for funding through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) which determines a large percentage of grants and awards for rural health providers. This came after he led an effort in October 2020 to revise HRSA's rural classification methodology to include changes for Boone, Clay, Hampshire, Lincoln, Preston and Wirt counties from being listed as "urban" to now being considered "rural".

**December 21, 2020:** Senator Manchin's bill, the *Crisis Care Improvement & Suicide Prevention Act*, was included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021. This new law will provide an increase of \$35 million to the Mental Health Services Block Grant, including a 5% set aside for evidence-based crisis care programs.

**December 21, 2020:** Senator Manchin secured \$3.95 billion in the year end funding package to combat the opioid epidemic including \$1.5 billion for the State Opioid Response Grant program with 15% set aside for the hardest hit states, including WV.

**December 1, 2020:** Senator Manchin led a group of bipartisan, bicameral Members of Congress in announcing the framework for the COVID-19 emergency relief bill, including \$5 billion for opioid treatment. This framework was the foundation for the final \$908 billion package that passed in late December.

**October 16, 2020:** Senator Manchin submitted comments to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) on the proposed changes to their rural classification methodology, which determines a large percentage of grants and awards for rural health providers in West Virginia. This revision includes changes for Boone, Clay, Hampshire, Lincoln, Preston and Wirt counties from "urban" to "rural". The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy is the agency in charge of promoting health services in rural America, including rural opioid response programs.

**September 29, 2020:** Senators Manchin and John Cornyn (R-TX) introduced the *See Something, Say Something Online Act* to stop the illicit sale of opioids and other drugs online by amending Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act to require companies report illegal activity on their online platforms.

**September 25, 2020:** Senator Manchin led a bicameral, bipartisan group of Members of Congress in introducing the *Improving Medicaid Programs' Response to Overdose Victims and Enhancing (IMPROVE) Addiction Care Act* to provide greater assistance to individuals who have struggled with opioid misuse and abuse.

**September 21, 2020:** Senator Manchin led five Senators in urging Judge Robert D. Drain to reject Purdue Pharma's proposal to pay President and CEO Craig Landau a bonus of up to \$3.5 million due to his role in the opioid epidemic.

**September 18, 2020:** Senator Manchin led the West Virginia Congressional delegation in sending a letter to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Alex Azar and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Administrator Seema Verma calling for immediate action to address a decision by CMS, specifically a provision within the *SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act* that could negatively affect access to treatment for opioid addiction.

**September 11, 2020:** Senators Manchin and Capito led a bipartisan letter to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) Acting Director Timothy Shea urging the DEA to keep the opioid epidemic a priority in the

midst of the coronavirus pandemic.

**August 31, 2020:** Senator Manchin wrote to Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman Ajit Pai, calling for changes to federal law to make companies liable for the sale of illicit drugs and other illegal activities taking place online on their platforms.

**August 7, 2020:** Senator Manchin requested an update from the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) on regulations in place during the COVID-19 pandemic for Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT), which many providers are prescribing through telemedicine due to the ongoing pandemic.

**July 30, 2020:** Senator Manchin sent a letter to HHS Secretary Azar and Assistant Secretary McCance-Katz to request an update on the implementation of the *Protecting Jessica Grubb's Legacy Act (Legacy Act)*, which passed as part of the *CARES Act*.

**July 22, 2020:** Senators Manchin and Gardner (R-CO) introduced the *Crisis Care Improvement and Suicide Prevention Act* which would direct states to utilize five percent of their Mental Health Block Grant for crisis care services – once funding for the program is increased by five percent nationally – allowing states to upgrade crisis care programs and strategies.

**June 4, 2020:** Senators Manchin and Capito secured funding to support WVU in training addiction specialists to benefit West Virginia communities with behavioral and primary care services in regards to addiction.

**March 26, 2020:** The U.S. Senate unanimously passed Senator Manchin's *Protecting Jessica Grubb's Legacy Act (Legacy Act)* as part of the third COVID-19 emergency funding package.

**March 11, 2020:** Senators Manchin, Tillis (R-NC), Jones (D-AL), and Cornyn (R-TX) introduced bipartisan, bicameral legislation to reduce barriers to employment in the banking industry for qualified applicants with minor criminal records, such as resulting from a substance use disorder.

**March 3, 2020:** Senator Manchin supported the passage of the *Supporting Older Americans Act*. This bill is a reauthorization of the *Older Americans Act* with a 6% increase in funding for Title III, which supports home-based nutrition delivery services which are essential to many of West Virginia's aging population. This was especially important because it also authorizes the Grandparents Raising Grand Kids Act taskforce to help grandparents raising grandkids, which has increased drastically as an effect of the opioid epidemic.

**March 3, 2020:** Senator Manchin reintroduced the *Protecting Jessica Grubb's Legacy Act*, a bill which would change existing privacy regulations, known as 42 CFR Part 2, surrounding medical records for those suffering with substance use disorder. The goal of the legislation is to save lives by ensuring that medical providers do not accidentally give opioids to individuals in recovery like in the case of Jessica Grubb.

**February 27, 2020:** Senator Manchin introduced the *Saving America's Future by Educating (SAFE) Kids Act of 2020*. This bill, if passed, would direct the Department of Education along with several health agencies to develop evidence-based, age appropriate curriculum on the negative impacts of substance use – including but not limited to opioids, tobacco, and vaping. This legislation also establishes a competitive grant program for states to implement the curriculum in public schools.

**February 21, 2020:** Senator Manchin held a town hall event at the University of Charleston where he discussed in depth the opioid epidemic, and his recent bill, the *Budgeting for Opioid Addiction Treatment Act*, which would impose a one cent per milligram fee on the sale of active opioids by the manufacturer, producer, or importer.

**January 16, 2020:** Senator Manchin voted to support the United States – Mexico – Canada Agreement (USMCA) trade deal in part because of its focus on furthering to stem the tide of illegal, online opioid sales throughout North America.

**December 19, 2019:** Senator Manchin secured \$3.8 billion in funding to combat opioids in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Appropriations package.

**December 18, 2019:** Senator Manchin called on Purdue Pharma to cancel a \$1.3 million bonus for CEO, Craig Landau. This comes after Mr. Landau being named as a defendant in multiple lawsuits, which allege he personally designed Purdue's intentionally deceptive opioid marketing campaign.

**December 17, 2019:** Senator Manchin introduced the *Non-Opioid Prevent Addiction in the Nation (NOPAIN) Act*, which would help Medicare recipients receive non-opioid pain treatments.

**October 31, 2019:** Senator Manchin secured more than \$600 million to fight the opioid epidemic and \$80 million to combat children and youth homelessness in FY 2020 Appropriations.

**October 24, 2019:** Senator Manchin and Senator Portman (R-OH) introduced the bipartisan *Federal Initiative to Guarantee Health by Targeting (FIGHT) Fentanyl Act* to permanently schedule illicitly manufactured and deadly fentanyl.

**October 23, 2019:** Senator Manchin spoke with First Lady Melania Trump on combatting the opioid crisis.

**September 26, 2019:** Senator Manchin secured significant funding for West Virginia's fight against the opioid epidemic in the FY 2020 Homeland Security spending bill.

**September 19, 2019:** Senator Manchin included significant funding for West Virginia in the FY 2020 Transportation and Housing Urban Development (THUD); Agriculture, Rural Development, and FDA; and Financial Services and General Government (FSGG) appropriations bills. The spending bills included \$280 million for the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program and \$100 million for the Drug Free Communities program to combat heroin and prescription opioid abuse around the country.

**July 11, 2019:** Senator Manchin and Senator Braun (R-IN), introduced the *FDA Opioid Labeling Accuracy Act*, which would prohibit the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) from allowing opioids to be labeled for intended use of "around-the clock, long-term opioid treatment" until a study can be completed on the long-term usage of opioids.

**July 8, 2019:** Senator Manchin joined First Lady Melania Trump and Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Kevin McAleenan in Huntington to highlight the way federal, state and local officials are working together to fight the opioid epidemic.

**June 12, 2019:** Senator Manchin applauded American Medical Association for supporting aligning 42 CFR Part 2 and HIPAA privacy standards, which is accomplished through Senator Manchin's *Protecting Jessica Grubbs Legacy Act*.

**May 14, 2019:** Senator Manchin introduced the *Opioid Quota Openness, Transparency, and Awareness (QuOTA) Act* and the *Safer Prescribing of Controlled Substances Act*, both aimed at fighting the opioid epidemic.

**May 2, 2019:** Senator Manchin rebuked the sweetheart settlement with McKesson Corporation that Attorney General Patrick Morrisey and Governor Jim Justice agreed to.

**March 28, 2019:** Senator Manchin asked Purdue Pharma to commit to not profiting from their new drug that could reverse opioid overdoses.

**March 27, 2019:** Senator Manchin introduced the *Providing Officers with Electronic Resources (POWER) Act* to create a program through the Department of Justice (DOJ) that would provide state and local law enforcement with devices, similar to what federal enforcement use on the U.S.-Mexico border to increase the

accuracy of detecting of detecting fentanyl and other dangerous drugs.

**March 6, 2019:** Senator Manchin led 12 of his colleagues in a letter to HHS Secretary Alex Azar to initiate a rulemaking process that will improve coordination of care and reduce the potential for accidental overdoses among recovering addicts. This rulemaking process would help give healthcare providers access to their patient's complete medical history, including substance abuse, allowing them to provide the appropriate care.

**February 8, 2019:** Senator Manchin reintroduced six pieces of legislation to help combat the current opioid epidemic in West Virginia.

- *The Clean Start Act:* This bill will allow people with a federal felony or misdemeanor conviction for a past nonviolent crime committed as a result of drug addiction an opportunity to have their criminal record sealed after undergoing comprehensive addiction treatment and demonstrating a commitment to their recovery. This bill will give people who wish to reform their lives a clean start.
- *LifeBOAT Act:* This bill would establish a funding stream to fund efforts to provide and expand access to substance abuse treatment through the existing Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant. To pay for this treatment, this bill would establish a 1 cent fee on each milligram of opioid in a pain pill. The bill includes a rebate for cancer related pain and hospice patients and an exemption for opioids used as part of medically assisted treatment.
- *The Changing the Culture of the FDA Act:* This bill would amend the FDA's mission statement to include the agency's responsibility for addressing the public health impact of the opioid epidemic. To date, the FDA has failed to consider the devastating public health impact of their repeated decisions to approve dangerously addictive opioids. This bill would help drive the culture change that we need to see at the FDA with regard to opioid approvals.
- *FDA Accountability for Public Safety Act:* This bill would require the FDA to seek the advice of an advisory committee before approving any new opioid and requires the agency to provide a report to Congress if it approves an opioid against the advice of that committee. Distribution of the drug would be prohibited until the report is submitted.
- *Protecting Americans from Dangerous Opioids Act:* This bill would require the FDA to remove approval for an existing opioid medication for every new opioid medication that it approves.
- *DEA Enforcement and Authority Act:* This legislation would restore the DEA's ability to effectively enforce our nation's drug laws by making the critical changes requested by the Department of Justice to the Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act, which passed in 2016.

**December 11, 2018:** Senator Manchin voted to pass the *Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018* (the Farm Bill), bipartisan legislation that reauthorizes agriculture, nutrition and forestry programs overseen by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Senator Manchin made sure to include top West Virginia priorities in the Farm Bill including funding to fight the opioid epidemic by expanding USDA Rural Development investments in telemedicine and community treatment facilities.

**October 3, 2018:** Senator Manchin applauded final passage of the *SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act*, which includes a provision that Senator Manchin pushed for that will ensure that West Virginia receives its fair share of federal funding to fight the opioid epidemic. Originally, much of the funding that states received to fight the opioid epidemic was based heavily on the number of overdose deaths rather than the rate of overdose deaths. Unfortunately, this disproportionately hurt states like West Virginia, which has a small population but has the highest need. Senator Manchin fought during the Appropriations process and conference committee to ensure that states that have been hit the hardest by the opioid epidemic receive more funding.

**September 24, 2018:** Senator Manchin applauded the designation of Mineral County as a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA).

**September 20, 2018:** Senator Manchin hosted a roundtable discussion on *Jessie's Law* at the Shenandoah Health Center in Martinsburg.

**September 19, 2018:** Senator Manchin hosted a roundtable discussion on opioids at the Jefferson County Day Reporter Center in Ranson with community and healthcare leaders to discuss the opioid epidemic.

**September 17, 2018:** Senator Manchin secured a provision in the *Opioid Crisis Response Act* that will ensure that West Virginia will receive more funding to fight the opioid epidemic.

**August 16, 2018:** Senator Manchin applauded Department of Justice (DOJ) and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency's (DEA) opioid quota reduction announcement.

**July 6, 2018:** Senator Manchin and a bipartisan group of Senators urged the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to provide more resources and better support for forensic medicine practitioners as overdose deaths in the United States overwhelm medical examiners, coroners, and toxicologists.

**June 28, 2018:** Senator Manchin included \$3.7 billion to fight the opioid epidemic and \$1.6 billion for community health centers in FY 2019 spending bills.

**June 21, 2018:** Senator Manchin secured funding priorities for West Virginia in the FY 2019 Financial Services and General Government (FSFF), State and Foreign Ops, and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) funding bills. These funding bills included funding to fight the opioid epidemic.

**June 15, 2018:** Senator Manchin secured language to ensure that West Virginia is eligible for a total of \$27,910,443 in federal funding through the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

**June 13, 2018:** Senator Manchin secured funding aimed at combatting the opioid and heroin epidemic within the Department of Justice (DOJ). This funding included \$360 million for the Opioid Initiative, \$80 million for drug courts, and \$90 million for the *Second Chance Act*.

**June 13, 2018:** Senator Manchin introduced the *Examining Opioid Treatment Infrastructure Act*, which will require the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to evaluate and report on the capacity of both residential and inpatient treatment facilities along with the status of their needs.

**June 5, 2018:** Senator Manchin questioned Secretary of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos about the Trump Administration plans to eliminate substance abuse treatment and counseling in schools.

**May 23, 2018:** Senator Manchin, along with Senators Capito, Brown, Portman, King, Heller, Casey, and Whitehouse, introduced the *Caring Recovery for Infants and Babies (CRIB) Act*, which would allow Medicaid to cover healthcare services provided to infants in residential pediatric recovery facilities in addition to hospitals.

**May 23, 2018:** Senator Manchin and Senator Scott (R-SC), co-chairs of the Senate Caucus on Prescription Drug Abuse, addressed attendees at a roundtable hosted by shatterproof, a nonprofit organization dedicated to ending the devastation addiction causes families.

**May 11, 2018:** Senator Manchin congratulated drug court graduates in Kanawha County in his keynote address.

**May 7, 2018:** Senator Manchin applauded First Lady, Melania Trump, "Be Best" initiative, which in part focused on how the opioid epidemic impacts children.

**May 7, 2018:** Senator Manchin applauded Walmart's announcement to limit the number of opioid pills prescribed for an initial opioid prescription, in line with the CDC prescribing guidelines, and to require e-prescriptions of opioids and other controlled substances to reduce abuse and diversion.

**May 3, 2018:** Senator Manchin unveiled new analysis showing the economic impact of opioid crisis in West Virginia.

**April 26, 2018:** Senator Manchin, along with Senators Capito and Kaine, introduced the *Handle With Care Act* to recognize and build on the successful Handle with Care program in West Virginia.

**April 24, 2018:** Senator Manchin applauded the passage of *The Opioid Crisis Response Act of 2018* out of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee.

**April 24, 2018:** Senator Manchin applauded the extension of the opioid public health emergency declaration.

**April 24, 2018:** Senator Manchin urged West Virginians to participate in Drug Take-Back Day. Drug Take-Back Day is an opportunity for the public to prevent prescription drug abuse and theft by disposing of expired, unused, and unwanted drugs.

**April 18, 2018:** Senator Manchin applauded the Department of Justice's (DOJ) proposal to reduce opioid production.

**April 17, 2018:** Senator Manchin reacted to the drug raids conducted by the Department of Justice (DOJ) and Huntington Police in Huntington, WV.

**April 11, 2018:** Senator Manchin encouraged Health and Human Services (HHS) Alex Azar to create and disseminate the standards required through *Jessie's Law*.

**April 6, 2018:** Senator Manchin announced that many of his provisions are included in *The Opioid Crisis Response Act of 2018*, a bipartisan opioid bill that will improve the ability of the Departments of Education, Labor, and Health and Human Services to address the crisis.

**March 23, 2018:** Senator Manchin secured funding for West Virginia in the 2018 omnibus appropriations bill that included significant funding for opioids.

**March 23, 2018:** Senator Manchin applauded the passage of the *Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Act*, which created a federal task force charged with supporting grandparents raising grandchild.

**March 22, 2018:** Senator Manchin secured passage of "*Jessie's Law*," which will help ensure that medical professions have full knowledge of their patient's previous opioid addiction if the patient provides that information.

**March 19, 2018:** Senator Manchin applauded the President's plan to end the opioid epidemic. President Trump's plan included an increase in public education and investing in policies that keep unnecessary and illicit opioids off the streets.

**March 14, 2018:** Senator Manchin released a report detailing his plan to end the opioid epidemic. Senator Manchin's plan included drug prevention, prescriber education, substance abuse treatment, law enforcement, child care, a chance at a clean start and funding.

**March 5, 2018:** Senator Manchin introduced legislation to make the changes requested by the Justice Department to restore the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) authority to go after pharmaceutical

companies that are violating the law and flooding our communities with opioids.

**February 15, 2018:** Senator Manchin introduced the *Opioid Response Enhancement Act* to help states better fight the opioid epidemic that is ravaging communities and families across this country. This bill would expand a grant program that was created as part of the bipartisan *21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act of 2017* and ensure states have access to continued and additional funding for the next five years under this program.

**February 5, 2018:** Senator Manchin applauded the new West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources Drug Control Policy office and the appointment of its new director, Dr. Michael Brumage.

**January 23, 2018:** Senator Manchin applauded the President's decision to extend the opioid public health emergency declaration. This extension comes after Senator Manchin and 10 other Senators sent a letter to President Trump earlier this month urging him to renew the opioid public health emergency declaration because there is still more work to be done since its original declaration in October.

**January 12, 2018:** Senator Manchin and 10 other Senators sent a letter to President Trump urging him to renew the opioid public health emergency declaration because of little action since its original declaration in October.

**December 21, 2017:** Senator Manchin and 15 other Senators sent a letter to the Drug Enforcement Agency following the Senate Committee on the Judiciary's oversight hearing on the *Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act* (P.L. 114-145). This letter asks for written clarification from DEA as to whether or not this bill had unintended consequences for DEA's enforcement authority after comment from Ms. Demetra Ashley, the Acting Assistant Administrator for the Diversion Control Division of the DEA, suggested previously.

**December 21, 2017:** In response to the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) new report on opioid overdose deaths in 2016 which stated that in 2016, there were 42,249 opioid related overdose deaths in the US. That is a 28% increase over 2015, Senator Manchin released a statement calling on the funding needed to curb the opioid crisis.

**December 19, 2017:** Senator Manchin sent a letter to Bill Crouch, Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR), proposing recommendations for West Virginia's response plan to combat the opioid crisis. In November, the DHHR announced the development of an opioid response plan through public engagement and collaboration with experts that will be presented to Governor Jim Justice and the West Virginia Legislature in January 2018.

**December 15, 2017:** Senators Manchin and Capito joined a bipartisan group of senators in calling on Senate leadership to include additional funding dedicated to addressing the crisis in the upcoming supplemental and omnibus appropriations legislation.

**December 13, 2017:** Senator Manchin sent a letter to Scott Gottlieb, Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and Robert Patterson, Acting Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), asking the administrations to consider rescheduling and requiring additional risk mitigation for the drug gabapentin, a nerve-pain medication labeled as a "drug of concern" by the West Virginia Board of Pharmacy.

**December 6, 2017:** Senator Manchin sent a letter to the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Dr. Scott Gottlieb, calling on him to adopt three policy changes through the Opioid Policy Steering Committee in order to reduce the number of unnecessary and dangerous opioid medications available.

**December 5, 2017:** Senator Manchin questioned Dr. Debra Houry, Director of the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Dr. Elinore McCance-Katz, Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Dr. Francis S. Collins, Director of the National Institutes of Health and Former Congressman Patrick J. Kennedy of the President's Commission on Combatting Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis on the business rationale behind flooding 780 million pain pills into West Virginia from 2007 to 2012.

**November 15, 2017:** Senators Manchin, Capito, Baldwin, Moran, Blumenthal and Tester introduced bipartisan legislation, the Andrew White Veterans Community Care Opioid Safety Act, to strengthen opioid therapy safety and pain care through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) community care programs, including through the VA Choice program.

**November 14, 2017:** Senators Manchin, Capito, Shaheen and Hassan (D-N.H.) introduced the Targeted Opioid Formula Act to prioritize federal funding for states that have been hardest hit by the opioid epidemic, including West Virginia.

**October 28, 2017:** Senator Manchin applauded the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) announcement that Charleston will receive one of six new enforcement teams in the nation to help combat the flow of opioids, including fentanyl, in West Virginia.

**October 20, 2017:** Senator Manchin and 31 other Senators sent a letter to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) requesting information on the impact of the Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act that was highlighted in a report by the Washington Post and 60 Minutes.

**October 18, 2017:** Senators Manchin and Capito sent a letter to Governor Christie and the White House Commission on Combatting Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis urging them to include the Legacy Act in their final report.

**October 16, 2017:** Senators Manchin, McCaskill, and Hassan introduced the Repeal of the Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act of 2016 (S. 1960).

**October 16, 2017:** Senator Manchin sent a letter to President Trump demanding that Representative Tom Marino's nomination be pulled from consideration to lead the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). Rep. Marino withdrew his nomination the following day.

**October 4, 2017:** Senator Manchin released a statement calling on the Department of Health and Human Services to adopt the recommendations outlines in the 2017 Government Accountability Office (GAO) report on neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS)

**September 28, 2017:** Senator Manchin applauded the designation of Wood County, West Virginia as a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA). Senator Manchin sent a letter earlier in the year to the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy to encouraging them to designate Wood County.

**September 27, 2017:** Senator Manchin sent a letter to Anthem and UnitedHealth Group imploring them to make less addictive, alternative pain management drugs and physical therapy readily available and affordable to consumers.

**September 26, 2017:** Senator Manchin sent a letter to CVS Health, thanking them for their proactive changes to prescribing guidelines in an effort to address the opioid epidemic and highlighting the work that still needs to be done by all stakeholders.



**September 25, 2017:** Senator Manchin introduced the Protecting Jessica Grubb's Legacy Act (S. 1850). This bill will reform 42 CFR Part 2 to reduce the barriers that prevent medical professionals from accessing vital information about a patient's substance use disorder. It will enable a better coordinate of care for patients with substance use disorder.

**September 19, 2017:** Senator Manchin was awarded with the Michael Pretera Award of Excellence for his work in the fight against West Virginia's substance abuse epidemic.

**August 10, 2017:** Senator Manchin blasted Cardinal Health for accusing Lily's Place of Huntington, West Virginia of contributing to the opioid epidemic. Lily's Place provides treatment for infants with neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS), a syndrome that forms after birth in infants suffering from opioid withdrawals.

**August 3, 2017:** The U.S. Senate unanimously passed Jessie's Law (S. 581) sending it over to the House of Representatives. This bill will ensure that medical professionals have access to a patient's substance use medical records to better coordinate care.

**July 13, 2017:** Senators Manchin and Markey introduced the Safe Prescribing of Controlled Substances Act (S. 1554), which would require physicians to receive training on the safe prescribing of opioids before receiving or renewing their DEA license.

**July 11, 2017:** Senator Manchin joined a group of Senators in sending a letter to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) urging them to better prevent painkillers from flooding the market by setting lower opioid production quotas for 2018.

**July 6, 2017:** Senator Manchin applauds decision by Endo International's decision to voluntarily pull its opioid pain medication, Opana ER, from the market after Senator Manchin asked them to cease selling the medication because an FDA Advisory Committee had determined the drug's risks outweighed its medical benefits and it was contributing to the opioid epidemic.

**June 20, 2017:** Senator Manchin released a report detailing how the American Health Care Act would worsen the opioid crisis in West Virginia after participating in a conference call with Senator Bob Casey (D-PA), Huntington Police Chief Ciccarelli, and other law enforcement officials.

**May 25, 2017:** Senator Manchin led a bipartisan group of Senators in a discussion on the impact the opioid epidemic is having across American on the Senate floor.

**May 17, 2017:** Senator Manchin sent a letter to President Trump urging him to reverse the proposed cuts to the Office of National Drug Control Policy in the FY2018 Budget Request.

**May 17, 2017:** Senators Manchin and a group of other Senators sent letters to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) encouraging them to utilize the Medicare Part D Opioid Prescribing Mapping Tool to reduce opioid prescribing.

**May 16, 2017:** Senator Manchin sent a letter to the Food and Drug Administration urging them to immediately seek an advisory committee guidance on every opioid product that is currently on the market to determine for each one if the risks outweigh the benefits.

**May 9, 2017:** Senator Manchin re-introduced the Changing the Culture of the FDA Act, a bill to expand the FDA's mission statement to hold the agency responsible for addressing opioid epidemic.

**May 9, 2017:** Senators Manchin and Capito introduced the FDA Accountability for Public Safety Act to hold the FDA accountable for opioid drugs approved by the agency. The legislation would ensure that experts' voices are heard when the FDA is considering new, dangerous opioid medications.

**May 9, 2017:** Senator Manchin introduced the Protecting Americans from Dangerous Opioids (S. 1079), which would require the FDA to remove approval for an existing opioid medication for every new opioid medication that it approves.

**April 25, 2017:** Senator Manchin participated in a discussion at the White House today as part of the President's Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis with New Jersey Governor Chris Christie.

**March 30, 2017:** Senator Manchin attended a meeting at the White House with President Trump, Vice President Pence and White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus, focused on ending the opioid epidemic.

**March 30, 2017:** Senator Manchin joined his colleagues in introducing bipartisan legislation to require the use of prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs) in all states that received certain federal funding to combat opioid abuse and also require states to make their PDMP data available to other states.

**March 8, 2017:** Senator Manchin re-introduced "Jessie's Law" to save and protect recovering addicts. Jessie's Law will help ensure physicians and other medical professionals have full knowledge of a patient's previous opioid addiction when determining appropriate medical care.

**March 6, 2017:** Senator Manchin introduced the Vet Connect Act of 2017, which would streamline health records sharing between the Department of Veterans Affairs and community healthcare providers. Under current law, veterans being treated for drug abuse, alcoholism or alcohol abuse, infection with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), or sickle cell anemia must provide written consent to the VA in order to share their health records with their community providers. This onerous statutory requirement is the chief impediment to effective record sharing among VA healthcare providers.

**March 3, 2017:** Senator Manchin re-introduced the Budgeting for Opioid Addiction Treatment Act (LifeBOAT Act), which would establish a permanent funding stream to provide and expand access to substance abuse treatment. The LifeBOAT Act would establish a 1 cent stewardship fee on each milligram of active opioid ingredient in a prescription pain pill to fund efforts to provide and expand access to substance abuse treatment.

**January 12, 2017:** Senator Manchin, Recovery Point West Virginia, Burlington United Methodist Family Services, Children's Home Society of West Virginia, West Virginia Behavioral Healthcare Providers Association, the West Virginia Primary Care Association, and Kanawha Communities That Care called on the state of West Virginia to use the \$36 million settled in the case between Cardinal Health and AmerisourceBergen v. West Virginia to be put towards substance abuse treatment.

**January 11, 2017:** Senator Manchin and prominent organizations and healthcare service providers in West Virginia, announce research by Harvard and New York University that shows repealing the Affordable Care Act (ACA) would cut \$5.5 billion per year from the fight against the opioid epidemic. The removal of this critical funding would lead to increased deaths, homelessness and incarcerations and would adversely affect states with opioid challenges.

**December 13, 2016:** Senator Manchin attended the signing ceremony of the 21st Century Cures Act at the White House. This law includes funding to fight the opioid epidemic, improves medical research and modernizes mental health services.

**November 1, 2016:** Senator Manchin joined a group of senators in sending a letter to the Department of Justice (DOJ) and Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) questioning both agencies about lax enforcement efforts against wholesale opioid distributors that may have violated federal rules intended to prevent legal controlled substances from entering the illicit market.

**October 25, 2016:** Senator Manchin joined elected officials and community leaders at Winfield Middle

School, during National Red Ribbon Week to unveil a statewide drug prevention initiative. Mallinckrodt donated 55,000 drug deactivation pouches to the state to ensure proper disposal of unused or outdated prescription medications. Each of the 55 counties received 1,000 pouches for their residents.

**October 13, 2016:** Senator Manchin applauded the designation of Monongalia County, West Virginia as a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA). The HIDTA designation will enable Monongalia County to receive federal resources to further the coordination and development of drug control efforts among federal, state and local law enforcement officials. It also will allow local agencies to benefit from ongoing HIDTA-coordinated initiatives working to reduce drug use and its consequences across the United States.

**October 6, 2016:** Senator Manchin commended the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) decision to lower opioid quotas. Earlier this year, Senator Manchin sent a letter urging DEA Acting Administrator Rosenberg to use the agency's quota-setting authority to limit the quantity of opioid pills on the market. The DEA announced this week that it has decided to reduce next year's production quotas by 25 percent for nearly all Schedule II drugs, including prescription opioids.

**September 19, 2016:** Senator Manchin applauded the Administration's new efforts to combat the prescription opioid and heroin abuse epidemic as part of Prescription Opioid and Heroin Epidemic Awareness Week. The new actions include expanding access to substance use disorder treatment, establishing measures to combat the supply of fentanyl, supporting telemedicine programs to expand access to treatment to rural communities and providing funding to strengthen Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs across the country.

**August 9, 2016:** Senator Manchin participated in a drug abuse roundtable with Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Commissioner Dr. Robert Califf in Charleston. After Senator Manchin invited the Commissioner to visit West Virginia, he traveled to Charleston to better understand the devastating public health impact of opioid abuse in West Virginia and identify ways the FDA can better address this epidemic.

**July 14, 2016:** Senator Manchin introduced the Prescription Drug Monitoring Act to require the use of prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs) in all states that receive certain federal funding to combat opioid abuse and also requires states to make their PDMP data available to other states.

**July 13, 2016:** Senator Manchin commended the bicameral compromise reached to enact the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2015 (CARA). This bipartisan, bicameral legislation will help combat the opioid epidemic nationwide, but it lacks the robust funding that is so desperately needed to support these critical programs and treatment centers.

**July 6, 2016:** Senator Manchin applauded the Administration's new efforts to combat the prescription and heroin abuse epidemic. These new actions will expand access to treatment strengthen prescription drug monitoring, enable safe disposal of unneeded drugs and accelerate research on pain and opioid misuse and overdose.

**May 24, 2016:** Senator Manchin introduced the LifeBOAT Act, which would establish a permanent funding stream to provide and expand access to substance abuse treatment. This legislation would establish a 1 cent fee on each milligram of active opioid ingredient in a prescription pain pill to fund efforts for treatment.

**April 27, 2016:** Senator Manchin introduced "Jessie's Law" to save and protect recovering addicts. Jessie's Law will help ensure physicians and other medical professionals have full knowledge of a patient's previous opioid addiction when determining appropriate medical care.

**April 8, 2016:** Manchin introduced The Promoting Responsible Opioid Prescribing (PROP) Act, that would reduce pressure doctors currently face that may lead to overprescribing of opioid painkillers.

**March 29, 2016:** Senator Manchin applauded the Administrations new actions to combat opioid abuse

including expanding access to treatment and receiving new private sector commitments to address the epidemic.

**March 23, 2016:** Senator Manchin applauded the Food and Drug Administration for toughing its labeling requirements for immediate release opioid medications.

**March 15, 2016:** Senator Manchin applauded the release of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) guidelines for prescribing opioids for managing chronic pain.

**March 10, 2016:** Senator Manchin applauded the Senate passage of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2015 (CARA), bipartisan legislation that will combat the opioid epidemic nationwide. The final bill included his consumer education amendment to ensure that advocacy groups have access to funds they need to raise awareness about the risks of opioid addiction and overdose.

**March 1, 2016:** Senator Manchin spoke at a public meeting held by the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Science Board today. He discussed the FDA's past actions, which have not considered the public health impact or assessed the realities of the deadly opioid epidemic when approving dangerous opioid medications.

**February 11, 2016:** Senator Manchin introduced the *Changing the Culture of the FDA Act*, a bill to expand the FDA's mission statement to hold the agency responsible for addressing opioid epidemic.

**January 26, 2016:** Senator Manchin applauded the drastic reduction of opioid prescriptions by 26.3 million, or 1.1 billion tablets, since moving the hydrocodone-combination drugs from Schedule III to Schedule II.

**January 14, 2016:** Senator Manchin fought to have Jefferson County designated as a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area. The move enables Jefferson County to receive federal resources to further the coordination and development of drug control efforts among federal, state, and local law enforcement officials.

**December 23, 2015:** Senator Manchin sent a letter to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Sylvia Mathews Burwell urging the agency to support the release of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Draft Guidelines for Opioid Prescribing, which had been delayed in response to pressure from outside groups, including the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

**November 18, 2015:** Senator Manchin sent a bipartisan letter to Senate appropriators to request that any final appropriations package include necessary resources for critical substance abuse prevention and treatment services.

**August 17, 2015:** Senator Manchin sent a letter to the Acting Commissioner of Food and Drugs at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Dr. Stephen Ostroff, condemning the agency's decision to approve OxyContin for use for children as young as 11 years old.

**August 17, 2015:** Senator Manchin applauded the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) for granting additional High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTAs) funding to address the recent surge in heroin trafficking and overdoses and to help reduce drug abuse.

**May 23, 2015:** Senator Manchin sent letters to the CEOs of 13 drug distributors asking for the release of records that would show the number of prescription painkillers the companies have shipped to West Virginia over the past decade.

**May 21, 2015:** Senator Manchin introduced the *Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act* to improve efforts to prevent and treat prescription drug abuse.

**May 21, 2015:** Senators Manchin and Scott launched the Prescription Drug Abuse.

**May 18, 2015:** Senator Manchin, along with nine of his Senate colleagues, sent a letter to U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch calling for the reinstatement of National Drug Take-Back Day Program.

**April 15, 2015:** Senators Manchin and Vitter introduced the *FDA Accountability for Public Safety Act* to hold the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) accountable for opioid drugs approved by the agency. The legislation would ensure that experts' voices are heard when the FDA is considering new, dangerous opioid medications.

**April 8, 2015:** Senator Manchin delivered remarks at the National Prescription Drug Abuse Summit in Atlanta, Georgia to discuss the importance of combatting the prescription drug abuse epidemic and to announce two new pieces of legislation to help curb substance abuse, which will be introduced in the coming weeks. The summit, which hosted nearly 1,400 professionals, is the largest national collaboration of federal, state and local professionals seeking to address prescription drug abuse, misuse and diversion.

**March 26, 2015:** Senator Manchin introduced an amendment, which was included in the final FY2016 Congressional Budget, to encourage Congress to invest in efforts to combat meth abuse.

**January 28, 2015:** Senator Manchin sent individual letters to members of the West Virginia Legislature encouraging the body to pass legislation implementing the West Virginia Board of Pharmacy's recommendations to curb the tide of methamphetamine production in the state. The Board's recommendations include rescheduling pseudoephedrine products as a controlled substance that requires a prescription to obtain, lowering the monthly pseudoephedrine sales limit to 3.6g and lowering the annual pseudoephedrine sales limit to 24g.

**August 21, 2014:** The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) officially announced the final rule to reschedule hydrocodone-combination drugs, a tremendous legislative victory for Senator Manchin and the entire country.

**July 2014:** After being urged by Senator Manchin, CVS, Walgreens, Kmart and Rite-Aid stores in West Virginia stopped selling single-ingredient, non-tamper resistant pseudoephedrine that is used to make illegal methamphetamine. Additionally, Kroger stores in West Virginia announced they would limit the sale of single-ingredient pseudoephedrine.

**April 29, 2014:** Senator Manchin submitted a public comment to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) encouraging the agency to reschedule hydrocodone-combination drugs, which are found in highly addictive painkillers like Vicodin and Lortab, from a Schedule III to a Schedule II controlled substance.

**March 13, 2014:** Senator Manchin introduced legislation to ban Zohydro.

**March 13, 2014:** Senator Manchin attended the Senate Health Education Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee hearing, to meet Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Commissioner Margaret Hamburg and discuss his serious concerns over the FDA's approval of the powerful and highly addictive opioid drug, Zohydro Extended Release (ER), and the unsettling pay-to-play allegations surrounding FDA conferences.

**March 10, 2014:** Senator Manchin sent a letter to HHS Secretary Sebelius requesting to overturn the FDA's approval of Zohydro to keep this dangerous and highly addictive substance off the market.

**February 26, 2014:** The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration published a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) to place hydrocodone-containing products from a Schedule III to a Schedule II controlled substance, which kick-starts the reclassification process.

**October 24, 2013:** The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Sebelius informed Senator Manchin in October that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) would recommend rescheduling hydrocodone combination drugs from a Schedule III to a Schedule II controlled substance.

**October 9, 2013:** Senator Manchin sent a letter to FDA Commissioner Hamburg calling for a full investigation after reports of pay-to-play allegations between the pharmaceutical industry and FDA officials overseeing safety regulations of painkiller medicine surfaced in the Washington Post.

**May 10, 2013:** Senators Manchin and Rockefeller led a bipartisan letter to the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) today to urge immediate action on rescheduling drugs containing hydrocodone to help combat the prescription drug abuse epidemic, as recommended by the FDA's own advisory board.

**January 25, 2013:** The FDA's own advisory committee voted 19-10 to reclassify the highly addictive drug on the same day that Senator Manchin testified at its committee hearing.

**May 23, 2012:** Senator Manchin included an amendment to the *Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act* to reschedule hydrocodone. The measure passed by the Senate unanimously

