

Senator Manchin Secures Passage of “Jessie’s Law”

U.S. Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) secured the inclusion of “Jessie’s Law.” “Jessie’s Law” will help ensure that medical professionals have full knowledge of their patient’s previous opioid addiction if the patient provides that information.

The Journey of “Jessie’s Law”:

- **March 2, 2016:** Jessica Grubb is discharged from a hospital in Michigan after having surgery for a running injury. Despite having notified her doctors, Jessie was discharged with 50 oxycodone pills. The temptation was too great for it, as it would be for many addicts, and she passed away in her sleep that night.
- **April 27, 2016:** After working with David and Kate Grubb, Senator Manchin introduced “Jessie’s Law” in the U.S. Senate for the first time.
- **March 8, 2017:** Senator Manchin re-introduced “Jessie’s Law” in the U.S. Senate during the 115th Congress and spoke on the Senate floor encouraging his colleagues to pass the legislation.
- **August 3, 2017:** “Jessie’s Law” is approved by the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions by unanimous consent.
- **August 3, 2017:** The U.S. Senate passed “Jessie’s Law” by unanimous consent. The U.S. House of Representatives failed to pass “Jessie’s Law.”
- **September 6, 2017:** “Jessie’s Law” was approved by the Senate Appropriations Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Subcommittee as part of the FY2018 Labor, HHS Appropriations Bill Report.
- **September 7, 2017:** “Jessie’s Law” was approved by the full Senate Appropriations Committee as part of the FY2018 Labor, HHS Appropriations Bill report.
- **February 14, 2018:** Senator Manchin issued a statement urging the U.S. House of Representatives to pass “Jessie’s Law.”
- **March 22, 2018:** Senator Manchin secures passage of “Jessie’s Law.”

Summary:

- The language that is passing in the omnibus directs the Department of Health and Human Services to establish best practices for hospitals and physicians for sharing information about a patient’s past opioid addiction when that information is shared by the patient with the healthcare provider.
- The goal is to flag this history on the patient’s record like you would any other life-threatening medical issue, like a penicillin allergy.
- This legislation seeks to keep a tragedy like Jessie’s death from ever happening again by ensuring that when individuals are open about their past addiction, healthcare providers will have access to the information that they need to provide medically appropriate care and save lives.