

# MAGGIE HASSAN

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## Combating the Heroin and Opioid Crisis

Federal Support for Those on the Front Lines



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The heroin and opioid crisis is the most pressing public health and safety challenge facing New Hampshire, and Governor Maggie Hassan has been working with those on the front lines to ensure that they have the tools and resources they need to combat this horrible epidemic.

Governor Hassan put forward and is implementing a comprehensive strategy at the state level to help address the heroin and opioid crisis and help save lives. These steps include cracking down on fentanyl dealers and supporting effective law enforcement efforts such as Operation Granite Hammer, expanding drug courts as an effective alternative to incarceration, and providing millions of dollars in emergency state funding for prevention, treatment and recovery programs. The Governor also led the fight to pass and reauthorize the bipartisan New Hampshire Health Protection Program, also known as Medicaid expansion, which has helped thousands of Granite Staters access substance use disorder and behavioral health services. Those on the front lines of this crisis have said that Medicaid expansion is the single most important tool available to help combat the epidemic.

In addition, as Vice Chair of the National Governors Association's (NGA's) Health and Human Services Committee, Governor Hassan helped lead a bipartisan effort in February to develop an agenda for federal action, the [Governors' Priorities for Addressing the Nation's Opioid Crisis](#). Governors from across America pressed Congress and the Administration to act swiftly in addressing this national emergency. Their recommendations focused first and foremost on providing emergency federal funding to support states' prevention, treatment and recovery and law enforcement efforts. The NGA also recommended requiring providers to register with their states' prescription drug monitoring programs, facilitating the sharing of data from these programs across state lines to help prevent doctor shopping, eliminating counterproductive Medicaid restrictions, and making it easier for more providers to prescribe medications to help treat substance use disorders.

Yet as the crisis has grown, Congress has not only failed to provide the funding necessary to address this epidemic – it has actually imposed significant funding cuts in recent years to critical substance misuse programs. In July, the President signed the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, a bill that authorized several new programs but provided no funding, even for the programs named in the legislation. While Governor Hassan appreciates the bipartisan acknowledgement of the heroin and opioid crisis in Congress, she shares Senator Jeanne Shaheen's [frustration](#) that without funding, "Congress is offering a life preserver with no air in it." Instead of providing this funding, Congress cut funding for Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration programs by \$36 million for FY 2015 alone and slashed \$44 million

from the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment between 2010 and 2015.

Washington has also failed to take action on a number of the NGA's other key recommendations, including refusing to require the use of prescription drug monitoring programs or eliminate Medicaid restrictions that make it harder for states to meet the increasing need for inpatient addiction treatment. And Governor Hassan has strongly opposed efforts by Washington Republicans to repeal Medicaid expansion, which would take health care coverage away from tens of thousands of Granite State families and hinder their ability to access behavioral health and substance use disorder services.

In the Senate, Governor Hassan will build on efforts in New Hampshire by pushing for policies that will help those fighting on the front lines of the heroin and opioid epidemic. That starts with passing emergency federal funding as soon as possible. And if Congress fails to act before the end of the year, she will make every effort to push for a strong emergency funding bill to be the first legislation passed by the next Congress and signed into law by the next president.

The Governor's priorities also include following through on the NGA recommendations that she helped develop, enacting bipartisan proposals that have stalled in Congress, and pursuing other initiatives that have come out of conversations in New Hampshire with public safety officials, treatment and recovery professionals, and families who have been impacted by substance use disorders. In the Senate, Governor Hassan will focus on 1) providing federal funding to support state initiatives, 2) strengthening prevention efforts, 3) expanding treatment and recovery programs for substance use disorders, and 4) supporting public safety officials.

Those who are working to fight this epidemic know that we did not get here overnight, and we need a multi-faceted approach to take on this crisis at the community level. The priorities outlined in this plan are not exhaustive, but they are essential steps that should be taken now to help ensure that those on the front lines have the tools they need to combat the crisis and to help states develop comprehensive responses.

People in recovery and families who have lost loved ones have shared their stories, inspiring those around them with their courage and making a profound difference in the lives of countless others battling addiction. Their bravery must be marked by continued urgent action. The heroin and opioid epidemic is truly an all-hands-on-deck moment, and Governor Hassan will continue working in the Senate to bring people together at all levels of government and beyond to find solutions and respond effectively to stem – and ultimately reverse – the tide of this epidemic.

# 1. Provide Emergency and Ongoing Federal Funding

The most important step the federal government can take right now to help combat the heroin and opioid crisis is to provide emergency funding for prevention, treatment, recovery and law enforcement efforts – and if Congress fails to act before the end of the year, Governor Hassan will work in the Senate to make federal emergency funding the first bill passed by the next Congress and signed into law by the next president.

Despite the growing need in recent years, Congress has actually cut funding for critical substance misuse programs. As recently as FY 2015, Congress cut program levels for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration by \$36 million. Adjusting for inflation, Congress cut the agency’s budget by fully 25 percent between 2005 and 2015. And Congress slashed \$44 million from the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment between 2010 and 2015, hindering the Center’s work to promote evidence-based practices in treating substance use disorders.

Congress has also failed to provide emergency aid even as the crisis has grown worse. In the past, Congress regularly passed emergency aid to help address natural disasters and public health threats such as Ebola, but now Congress is refusing to act and provide emergency funding in the face of this public health crisis.

Senator Jeanne Shaheen has been a strong advocate for funding to help address the heroin and opioid epidemic. Last fall, Senator Shaheen introduced a \$600 million emergency funding bill. Her legislation would get funding to states, public health workers and public safety officials on the front lines within months instead of waiting up to two years under the typical appropriations process. Senator Shaheen’s bill includes \$300 million in block grant funding for state programs to support prevention, treatment and recovery, \$240 million to support state and local law enforcement initiatives and drug interdiction, \$50 million for prescription drug monitoring programs and community health system interventions, and \$10 million to improve access to medication-assisted treatment services in high-risk communities. But despite Senator Shaheen’s advocacy, the Senate has rejected her legislation. Senator Shaheen’s office has [blamed](#) “obstruction from the Republican majority” for this failure.

Governor Maggie Hassan strongly supports passing Senator Shaheen’s emergency funding legislation as quickly as possible. As Vice Chair of the National Governors Association’s Health and Human Services Committee, Governor Hassan helped lead efforts to develop the group’s agenda for federal action, and the NGA’s top recommendation was that the federal government should provide “emergency supplemental funding to help states and communities turn the tide on the opioid epidemic.” Governor Hassan has been vocal in calling for Congress to pass this much-needed funding without delay. And if Congress fails to pass this critical legislation by the

end of the year, she will push to make this legislation the first bill enacted by Congress next year.

Governor Hassan will also work in the Senate to substantially increase annual funding for prevention, treatment and recovery programs as well as for law enforcement. She will fight to protect that funding from politically motivated budget battles. Governor Hassan will work to ensure that Congress allocates more funding each year to allow states to implement comprehensive strategies and help those on the front lines get the tools they need to combat the crisis. These tools include medication-assisted treatment (using medications such as buprenorphine, branded as Suboxone, and naltrexone, branded as Vivitrol) and naloxone (Narcan). They also include recovery support services and housing, drug courts and other alternatives to incarceration, law enforcement and drug interdiction programs, screening and support services at Community Health Centers, prescription drug monitoring programs, youth education initiatives, and more.

We cannot make real progress in combating the heroin and opioid crisis without giving real resources to those on the front lines, and Washington needs to act immediately to get this done.

## 2. Strengthen Prevention Efforts

The best way to address substance misuse is to prevent it from happening in the first place. Governor Maggie Hassan has been working in New Hampshire to boost prevention efforts to reduce the number of people with substance use disorders. To address the role of prescription drugs she has insisted that all medical boards develop new emergency standards for prescribing opioids, signed a law requiring all prescribers to adopt updated, permanent rules this year, and worked to strengthen the New Hampshire Prescription Drug Monitoring Program. The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services has also provided \$1 million to Community Health Centers to provide Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) to every patient they see. And the Governor recently signed a law requiring K-12 public schools to provide age-appropriate drug and alcohol education to all New Hampshire students.

New Hampshire needs federal support to supplement these state-level efforts. Prescription drug regulation is largely done at the federal level, and programs for education and monitoring prescription drugs would benefit enormously from federal funding. While Congress has acknowledged the importance of these initiatives in recent legislation, it has provided no funding to support these critical programs. Congress has also failed to take strong enough action on prescription drug monitoring programs. In the Senate, Governor Hassan will work to correct this failure and require the use of prescription drug monitoring programs. She will also support improving the labeling of opioid-based medications, investigating illegal marketing of these drugs, encouraging additional training at medical schools, and expanding education and support for young people impacted by the heroin and opioid crisis.

**Require the use of Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs nationwide:** Prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs) have been an important tool for states in combating the heroin and opioid crisis. These programs aim to prevent and identify opioid misuse by giving prescribers and dispensers more information about a patient's history with prescription drugs. States have found that requiring prescribers to register with PDMPs can increase their use and effectiveness, and the National Governors Association has called on Congress to require prescribers to register with these programs as a condition of Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) licensure. Yet so far, Congress has failed to take this step. As a U.S. Senator, Governor Hassan will support legislation that corrects this failure by requiring dispensers to report all opioids dispensed to their state's PDMP, requiring practitioners to consult with their state's PDMP before prescribing opioids, and requiring states to notify practitioners when the PDMP shows that a patient exhibits patterns of opioid misuse.

**Share prescription drug data across state lines:** Governor Hassan also supports efforts to expand the sharing of prescription drug data across state lines. She has signed laws that allowed the state to share data with other states that have PDMPs and allowed federal health practitioners in Maine, Vermont and Massachusetts to access the New Hampshire PDMP. The National Governors Association has called on the federal government to help facilitate the interconnectivity of PDMPs to establish a national network, allowing providers to better identify patients who may be “doctor shopping” across state lines. In the Senate, Governor Hassan will support bipartisan legislation to create an inter-state data-sharing platform for PDMPs.

**Improve labeling of opioid-based medications:** Too often, patients are unaware of the dangers caused by medications containing opioids, or even unaware that the medication they are taking contains opioids at all. Congresswoman Annie Kuster has introduced Carl’s Law, legislation that requires medications to include a warning label if the drug contains opiates that could cause drug-seeking behavior. Rep. Kuster’s bill was named for Carl Messinger, a man from Holderness who relapsed into opioid misuse and later overdosed on fentanyl after he was unwittingly prescribed a cough medicine that contained opiates. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has recently taken steps to begin requiring warnings for opioid medications, and Governor Hassan has supported the FDA’s efforts. In the Senate, she will continue to push the FDA to weigh the risk of drug-seeking behavior in the consideration of labels for opioid medications and to support Rep. Kuster’s strong advocacy in this area.

**Investigate illegal marketing of opioid-based medications:** Illegal marketing by pharmaceutical companies has contributed to the heroin and opioid crisis over the past several decades. In 2007, Purdue Pharma, the company behind OxyContin, pled guilty to misleading the public and illegally marketing its drug by claiming that it was less addictive and less subject to abuse. As more information about the pharmaceutical companies producing these drugs continues to come out, states around the country have launched investigations to better understand their marketing practices and determine whether they were fraudulent and illegal. Governor Hassan has supported the New Hampshire Department of Justice’s investigation of five major drug companies. In the Senate, she will support investigations into illegal marketing of opioid-based medications at the federal level as well, encouraging investigations by the Department of Justice, Food and Drug Administration and Federal Trade Commission. And she will push Senate leaders to launch their own investigations and consider appropriate legislation to protect consumers and ensure that pharmaceutical companies are not marketing their products illegally.

**Encourage additional training at medical schools:** Despite wider recognition that prescription medications are closely tied to the heroin and opioid crisis, experts have expressed frustration that the medical community has been too slow to respond. That includes medical schools, many of which have hesitated to incorporate expanded education on managing pain and prescribing opioids. Fortunately, that is starting to change, and this spring 61 schools committed to requiring some form of prescriber education beginning this fall. Students at Harvard Medical School and elsewhere have taken matters into their own hands, holding student-led trainings on how to use

naloxone (Narcan) and treat opioid addiction with buprenorphine (Suboxone). Governor Hassan supports encouraging such training and also training students to use naltrexone (Vivitrol), and in the Senate she will work to hold medical schools accountable by requiring them to submit annual reports to Congress on their pain management and opioid prescribing courses.

**Expand education and support for young people:** Far too many young people have lost parents to the heroin and opioid crisis or become addicted to these drugs themselves. In New Hampshire, Governor Hassan has taken steps to help support children whose families have been impacted by the heroin and opioid crisis and improve evidence-based drug and alcohol education in schools. Earlier this year she signed a law to strengthen the Child Protection Act regarding potential opioid use by a parent or guardian. The Governor also signed a law that requires public schools to provide appropriate drug and alcohol education, and the New Hampshire Department of Education is implementing programs to provide technical assistance to prevent substance misuse in targeted school districts. New Hampshire has also received a federal grant to develop a comprehensive system of care for young people with substance use disorders, and Governor Hassan will fight to protect funding for this program in the Senate. She will also work to ensure that schools have the resources they need to implement effective drug and alcohol education programs, such as the Law Enforcement Against Drugs (LEAD) curriculum that communities such as Rochester have begun to implement. And she will take steps to ensure that we are supporting children impacted by the heroin and opioid epidemic, such as investing in federal research on the effectiveness of home visits to help parents who are in recovery.

# 3. Expand Treatment & Recovery Efforts

Governor Maggie Hassan has been working to provide more substance use disorder treatment and recovery support services for Granite Staters since entering office in 2013. She has supported Medicaid expansion since her 2012 gubernatorial campaign, and she is proud to have signed legislation establishing and reauthorizing New Hampshire's bipartisan Health Protection Program while in office. New Hampshire's Medicaid expansion program is already helping thousands of Granite Staters access substance use disorder and behavioral health services, and experts have said this program is essential to expanding treatment capacity in New Hampshire.

Beyond expanding Medicaid, the Governor has also successfully pushed for increased funding for treatment and recovery throughout the state, enacting \$5 million in emergency state funding earlier this year. Since January 1, 2016, the Governor and Executive Council have approved more than \$24 million in contracts for substance misuse services. The Governor has helped provide millions in state funding for medication-assisted treatment, withdrawal management, residential treatment and services for pregnant and postpartum women. She has also worked to support recovery services such as support groups, recovery coaches and mentors, peer recovery support services, and transitional and affordable housing for people with substance use disorders. At the same time, Governor Hassan has worked to help enforce the state and federal laws that require insurance companies to cover mental health and substance use disorder services at the same level as medical and surgical services to help ensure that beneficiaries have access to treatment and recovery support. And she has invested in growing New Hampshire's behavioral health workforce to accommodate the increased demand for substance use disorder services.

There is more work to be done at the federal level to support these state initiatives, beginning with expanded federal funding to support critical treatment and recovery efforts. Governor Hassan will also work to protect Medicaid expansion from misguided repeal efforts and eliminate counterproductive restrictions on the program, helping states meet the rising need for inpatient addiction treatment. As Senator she will also support federal efforts to enforce insurance parity laws, work to grow the treatment and recovery workforce, make it easier for medical residents to prescribe medication to treat addiction, and help provide integrated treatment for co-occurring mental health disorders.

**Protect Medicaid expansion:** New Hampshire’s bipartisan Medicaid expansion has already helped thousands of Granite Staters access substance use disorder and behavioral health services since coverage began in 2014. The program now covers nearly 50,000 hard-working Granite Staters, and experts have said that reauthorizing expansion earlier this year was the single most important tool available to help combat the epidemic. In the Senate, Governor Hassan will fight misguided efforts to repeal Medicaid expansion, which would take health care coverage away from tens of thousands of Granite State families and hinder their ability to access behavioral health and substance use disorder treatment services.

**Eliminate counterproductive Medicaid restrictions:** The Institutions for Mental Diseases exclusion is a longstanding prohibition that prevents states from receiving federal reimbursements for Medicaid patients who receive mental health or substance use disorder treatment in an inpatient facility with more than 16 beds. The exclusion, while well-intentioned, has become a barrier that prevents states from expanding access to treatment for Medicaid enrollees. The Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services recently relaxed this rule, allowing more patients to receive treatment at these larger facilities. The Governor supports these changes, and in the Senate she will work to eliminate the Institutions for Mental Diseases exclusion for substance use disorder treatment altogether to help states meet the increasing need for inpatient addiction treatment.

**Enforce federal law on insurance parity:** Federal law requires that insurance companies cover behavioral health services – including substance use disorder treatment services – in a way comparable to the way they cover medical and surgical services. This means that insurance companies cannot impose financial requirements or limitations for substance use disorder treatment services that are more restrictive than those for other medical services. The New Hampshire Department of Insurance has worked to ensure that insurance providers are following this federal requirement, and the Department is developing a “Parity Toolkit” to help Granite Staters know their rights and file appeals if necessary. In the Senate, Governor Hassan will push federal agencies to implement this law more aggressively, increasing inspections and bringing enforcement actions to ensure compliance by insurance companies and assisting states like New Hampshire that are seeking to help consumers and enforce these important laws.

**Grow the treatment and recovery workforce:** A significant barrier to increasing access to substance use disorder treatment and recovery is the lack of staff with the training and licensure needed to provide these services. Governor Hassan has worked to address this shortage at the state level, funding recruitment efforts for behavioral health and substance use disorder professionals, supporting pay increases for treatment counselors employed by state-contracted providers, and supporting the state’s Loan Repayment Program to help recruit and retain professionals in underserved areas. She also launched a Commission on Health Care Workforce and recently signed a law allowing alcohol and drug abuse counselors from other states to work in New Hampshire more easily. Governor Hassan will continue to focus on this issue in the Senate, supporting and fully funding efforts such as the Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training program and the Peer Professional Workforce Development program.

These initiatives help community colleges develop and sustain training and education programs in this area, support clinical internships, provide tuition support, and encourage program completion for people entering the fields of substance use disorder treatment and recovery services.

**Allow medical residents to prescribe medication to treat addiction more easily:** In February, the National Governors Association recommended allowing more providers – nurse practitioners, physician assistants and medical residents – to prescribe buprenorphine (Suboxone), a medication that has proven effective at helping treat opioid use disorders. While subsequent changes have allowed nurse practitioners and physician assistants to prescribe this medication, federal law still requires medical residents to apply for a waiver in order to treat patients with buprenorphine. Governor Hassan supports removing this requirement for medical residents to enable them to prescribe buprenorphine under an institutional Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) registration number while under the supervision of a physician. This change will both expand patient access to buprenorphine and help more medical residents learn how to treat opioid addiction.

**Provide integrated treatment for co-occurring mental health disorders:** Addressing substance use disorders requires a focus on mental health as well. People with mental health disorders are more likely to experience substance use disorders, and diagnosing and treating these co-occurring disorders has unique challenges. Governor Hassan has focused on mental health treatment throughout her time in office, including significantly increasing funding to revitalize the state’s community-based mental health care system and passing and reauthorizing New Hampshire’s bipartisan Medicaid expansion that is already providing mental health care to thousands of Granite Staters. New Hampshire also developed core competency recommendations for behavioral health counselors to enable current professionals to provide integrated treatment for co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders. In the Senate, she will continue to support a heightened focus on mental health and integrated treatment for co-occurring disorders, including fully funding the Center for Mental Health Services and the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant, a program that is too often threatened and was cut as recently as FY 2013.

**Support drug courts and address criminal recidivism:** Many individuals' involvement in the criminal justice system stems from mental health and substance use disorders – and too often these problems have gone untreated. In New Hampshire, Governor Hassan has been a strong proponent of alternatives to incarceration such as drug courts and other programs like veterans courts and mental health courts. Drug courts address the unique circumstances of their participants through intensive treatment, regular drug testing, community supervision and weekly court appearances – and they have proven more effective at reducing crime than lengthy incarceration. The Governor proposed and signed legislation expanding drug courts statewide, and she will continue to back these efforts in the Senate. She also believes we must do more to reduce recidivism among former inmates. Currently, more than three-quarters of all drug offenders are rearrested within five years of release. To help address the substance use disorders that lead to many of these repeat offenses, Governor Hassan supported the New Hampshire Department of Corrections' launch of a pilot program expanding medication-assisted treatment and recovery services for inmates and individuals about to be released from prison. At the federal level, she supports the bipartisan Second Chance Act, signed into law by President George W. Bush, which provides grants for evidence-based career training, mentoring, substance use disorder treatment and other services. Governor Hassan will support bipartisan efforts to reauthorize this law in the Senate and continue to focus on addressing substance misuse by those in the criminal justice system.

## 4. Support Public Safety Officials

While public safety officials are the first to say that we cannot arrest our way out of the heroin and opioid crisis, these officials on the front lines play a critical role in combating this epidemic. Fire fighters, paramedics and police officers are working in their local communities every day to save lives, and they need additional support.

Governor Maggie Hassan has strongly supported law enforcement efforts to address the crisis. Since taking office, she has pushed for increased state funding for drug task force teams and prosecutors dedicated to drug cases, proposed and signed legislation to increase the penalties for the illegal sale and distribution of fentanyl to match those for heroin, helped provide over \$1.5 million to support law enforcement in local communities across the state for interdiction efforts such as Operation Granite Hammer, and worked to expand the New Hampshire Information and Analysis Center, which runs a Drug Monitoring Initiative to help combat drug distribution and abuse. The Governor has also supported expanding drug courts statewide, and she has taken steps to help train more public safety officials in the safe use of naloxone (Narcan) to treat opioid overdoses.

In the Senate, she will work to expand on these statewide efforts by cracking down on fentanyl derivatives and other synthetic drugs at the federal level, stepping up drug interdiction efforts, disrupting the distribution of chemical precursors to fentanyl and other manufactured drugs, enhancing the National Guard Counterdrug Program, supporting public safety officials on the front lines, helping state forensic labs handle their growing caseloads, and developing better fentanyl detection kits for law enforcement.

**Crack down on fentanyl and other synthetic drugs:** Synthetic drugs such as fentanyl and carfentanil are a growing problem around the country. Synthetics are laboratory-designed drugs that act like controlled substances but are more difficult to detect. They can also be extremely dangerous and create high risks of addiction and abuse. Governor Hassan signed a law last year restricting the sale and possession of synthetic drugs in New Hampshire, and she supports taking similar action at the federal level. In the Senate, she will support bipartisan efforts to add more synthetic substances – including fentanyl derivatives – to schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act, indicating that they have a high potential for abuse and no currently accepted medical use. This change will empower law enforcement to crack down on these synthetics and better prosecute traffickers.

**Step up drug interdiction efforts:** A large percentage of the heroin and illegal fentanyl in the U.S. comes into the country from Mexico. While heroin seizures at the southern border have doubled in the past few years, the detection rate remains low, and more drugs continue to flow into the United States. Governor Hassan believes we must step up our drug interdiction efforts to reduce supply by preventing these illegal drugs

from entering the country. That means increasing the Department of Homeland Security's capabilities to interdict shipments of drugs at the border and increasing the Coast Guard's capabilities to interdict shipments en route to U.S. ports. It also means enhancing the Department of Defense's drug interdiction efforts. And the Governor will support continuing to build on efforts such as the Merida Initiative, a partnership with Mexico to enhance border security, improve information sharing and expand counter-narcotics efforts across the border to disrupt Mexican drug cartels. At the same time, Governor Hassan strongly supports enhancing security at our northern border, which is also a conduit for the smuggling of drugs and people. She supports expanding the number of border patrol agents, enhancing the use of monitoring technology along the border, and investing in Operation Stonegarden, which allows local law enforcement to partner with the Border Patrol on critical initiatives.

**Disrupt distribution of precursor chemicals:** While large percentages of the illegal fentanyl and methamphetamines entering the United States come most immediately from Mexico, the so-called "precursor" chemicals needed to manufacture these drugs usually originate elsewhere. Increasingly, these chemicals are coming from China. The Chinese chemical and pharmaceutical industries are vast, poorly monitored and poorly regulated, leading China to become a major global source for precursors of illegal drugs. Chinese authorities have begun to crack down on illegal production and distribution of these precursors but much more needs to be done to disrupt these networks. Governor Hassan will work to ensure a strong response. As Senator, she will support designating China as a Sensitive Investigation Unit location for the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) and increase funding for the program to help DEA field agents train foreign counterparts in counternarcotics operations. The Governor will also push the next administration to increase coordination and cooperation in this area between China and the United States.

**Enhance the National Guard Counterdrug Program:** The National Guard Counterdrug Program helps provide military intelligence skill-sets to law enforcement agencies to assist in cracking down on illegal drugs. Under this program, highly trained National Guard analysts assisted law enforcement agencies in New Hampshire with over 200 cases in 2015 alone, resulting in hundreds of arrests and millions of dollars in seized drugs, weapons and cash. Governor Hassan supports this highly successful program, and in the Senate she will back Senator Shaheen's bipartisan effort to extend the availability of funding from one to three years, providing the National Guard with the certainty needed to support longer-term drug interdiction efforts. Governor Hassan also supports Senator Shaheen's bipartisan advocacy to encourage the National Guard Bureau to adjust the Threat-Based Resource Model to take into account state overdose rates and allocate funds to high-need areas.

**Facilitate collaboration between law enforcement agencies:** In New Hampshire, Governor Hassan has taken steps to facilitate coordination between law enforcement agencies to help address the heroin and opioid crisis and take down drug distribution networks. She has worked to expand the New Hampshire Information and Analysis Center, a cooperative effort between the New Hampshire State Police and New

Hampshire Homeland Security and Emergency Management under the New Hampshire Department of Safety. The Governor has also supported the collaboration between the New Hampshire Department of Justice and the Office of the United States Attorney for the District of New Hampshire, an inter-office team dedicated to enhancing the coordination of federal, state and local efforts to investigate and prosecute illegal drug distribution. In the Senate, she will continue working to facilitate horizontal and vertical coordination across law enforcement agencies at all levels of government. And the Governor supports enhancing communication between federal, state and local prisons to help understand the flow of illegal drugs and ensure that people leaving prisons receive appropriate support.

**Support extensive substance misuse training for public safety officials:** Public safety officials play a central role in addressing the heroin and opioid crisis. Fire fighters, paramedics and Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) are often the first to encounter those suffering from an overdose, and these public safety officials need training to help them deal appropriately with these crisis situations. In the Senate, Governor Hassan will work to ensure that those on the front lines have the training, tools and resources they need to respond effectively, and ensure that public safety officials are able to connect those suffering from substance use disorders with the appropriate services for further assistance.

**Boost support for local law enforcement:** Law enforcement officers on the front lines in New Hampshire have done extraordinary work in responding to the crisis. Governor Hassan has strongly supported their efforts, pushing for increased state funding for drug task force teams, expanding the New Hampshire Information and Analysis Center and helping provide over \$1.5 million to support local law enforcement's interdiction efforts, such as Operation Granite Hammer. Law enforcement also needs support from the federal government, and Congress provides funding for state and local law enforcement initiatives each year through the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (Byrne-JAG). Unfortunately, this program has seen major cuts in recent years: Congress cut annual funding for the program by \$140 million between 2010 and 2015, and despite an increase last year, funding for FY 2016 remains more than \$40 million below the FY 2010 level. Governor Hassan supports restoring funding for local law enforcement, including the \$230 million for this program in Senator Shaheen's emergency funding legislation and another \$10 million for police drug interdiction operations on the ground in high-need areas.

**Address growing drug caseloads at police forensic labs:** The heroin and opioid crisis has put police forensic labs under significant strain. The increase in heroin and fentanyl has helped drive up the number of testing requests as well as the complexity and average time needed to complete this testing. As a result, state forensic labs have developed backlogs, delaying test results and complicating law enforcement investigations and prosecutions. Recognizing the strain at the New Hampshire State Police Forensic Laboratory, Governor Hassan announced a grant last fall to support overtime at the Laboratory to help reduce its growing case backlog. She also signed a law in June to allocate \$1.5 million to the New Hampshire Department of Safety to support expanding

law enforcement initiatives statewide, funding that can also be used at the State Police Forensic Laboratory. As Senator, she will support further steps to alleviate this problem, including backing Senator Shaheen’s Combat Heroin Epidemic and Backlog Act to create a new federal grant program aimed at reducing backlogs at state police forensic labs.

**Improve fentanyl detection kits for law enforcement:** The rise of fentanyl has created other problems for law enforcement on the front lines, including the difficulty of detecting fentanyl in the field. Because fentanyl is so potent, street samples of fentanyl are usually heavily diluted, so much of street fentanyl is untraceable through officer-conducted field tests. This means that law enforcement must frequently conduct laboratory tests to identify fentanyl, further compounding the strain at police forensic labs. To help alleviate this problem and allow for faster identification in the field, Governor Hassan will support federal investment in research and development to help create a new, more sensitive field testing kit better capable of detecting fentanyl.

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All who are involved know that there are no quick fixes to the heroin and opioid crisis that is ravaging our state, our region and our country. It will take a sustained, multi-faceted approach, and it will require coming together at all levels of government and beyond to turn the tide of this horrible epidemic. The measures outlined above are critical steps that should be taken immediately at the federal level to help support states and local communities in their responses to this crisis. The Governor will make implementing these policies her top priority in the United States Senate – including pushing for Senator Shaheen’s emergency funding measure to be the first bill signed by the next President if Congress fails to pass it this year.

There is far more work to do to prevent more families, friends and communities from having to grapple with the pain of losing a loved one to substance misuse. The path ahead will not be easy, and it will not be quick. But together, we can – and we will – beat this epidemic.

**For more information about what  
Maggie’s priorities will be in the U.S. Senate, visit:  
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