

FRANK C. GUINTA  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS  
1ST DISTRICT, NEW HAMPSHIRE

326 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-5456  
33 LOWELL STREET  
MANCHESTER, NH 03101  
(603) 641-9536

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-2901**

COMMITTEE ON  
FINANCIAL SERVICES

COMMITTEE  
ON THE BUDGET

BIPARTISAN TASK FORCE  
TO COMBAT THE  
HEROIN EPIDEMIC  
CHAIRMAN

November 18, 2016

The Honorable Hal Rogers  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reported that drug overdose deaths reached an all-time high in 2014 at 47,055 – with six out of 10 deaths related to opioids. It is anticipated that this number will increase significantly when 2015 data is released. Now, more than ever, is the time to show the American people that Congress is committed to providing families and communities with necessary resources to respond to addiction and prevent further loss of life.

Congress made huge strides in advancing our response to addiction this year in the passage of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 (CARA). CARA will provide a comprehensive response to addiction and the growing opioid epidemic in the United States, including prevention, treatment, recovery, overdose reversal, criminal justice reform and law enforcement.

CARA provides new resources to work hand in hand with the policies outlined in CARA to help states and communities develop and implement evidence-based programs to respond to this epidemic. CARA expands prevention and educational efforts to prevent prescription opioid abuse and the use of heroin and increases drug disposal sites to keep medications out of the hands of youth. CARA authorizes law enforcement task forces to combat heroin and methamphetamine and expands the availability of the overdose reversal drug naloxone to law enforcement agencies and first responders. In the criminal justice system, CARA will help to promptly identify and treat individuals suffering from substance use disorders and expand the use of addiction treatment medications, diversion and education efforts to give individuals a second chance.

As you may know, the Granite State has been devastated by the heroin and opioid epidemic. As Founder and Co-Chair of the Bipartisan Task Force to Combat the Heroin Epidemic I've been committed to bipartisan work on this important issue, work that must continue.

Over the past year, I have had discussions with agencies and officials across the country regarding the gravity of this epidemic and the urgent need to address it. I am pleased to see that the new Administration has taken seriously the large scope of this nationwide crisis. I fervently believe that CARA needs to be funded appropriately in order to implement its programs to the necessary size and scale to provide resources to American families and communities.

This is why I am asking you to demonstrate your commitment to addressing this epidemic by including a budget anomaly to fund CARA at a total of \$500 million dollars - the same amount recommended by Chairman Rogers earlier this year.

Only through a comprehensive response, which includes prevention, treatment, recovery support and law enforcement, can we reverse current trends and provide individuals and families impacted by addiction with the services they need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frank C. Guinta". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Frank C. Guinta  
Member of Congress