



MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120

August 5, 2021

The Honorable Tom Wolf
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: Opioid Crisis

Dear Governor Wolf:


Thank you for your letter dated July 30, 2021 expressing your views regarding the national opioid crisis, which remains a critical ongoing public health crisis that we face as a nation, as a Commonwealth, and as individuals residing in communities throughout the state.


Since 2016, we have sent to you for your signature over a dozen bills aimed at combating the opioid and heroin crisis. During the last decade, we've joined medical professionals, first responders, law enforcement, hospitals and pharmacists, and community leaders to discuss how we might best address this crisis while prioritizing victims of substance abuse. We have achieved numerous important opioid related laws enacted in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020; all of which additionally were aimed at saving the lives of individuals and helped us reduce the number of overdose deaths.

While this is not the end of our efforts, we believe we have made some additional significant strides with the passage of legislation as a result of work initiated by our standing committees, the Center for Rural Pennsylvania, state agencies, and other work groups. To date, we are aware of 3 states in the country, other than Pennsylvania, that are currently under a disaster emergency in response to the opioid crisis; they are Arizona, Florida and Massachusetts.

Therefore, we believe that rather than renewing the disaster declaration for a fifteenth time, we assure you our commitment to continuing our vital work in the weeks, months and year ahead. We agree this epidemic has not gone away, but rather, remains as a more critical issue as ever as we move our Commonwealth forward, past the COVID-19 pandemic. If not under a statewide disaster emergency, we ask that you provide us with specific recommendations so that Majority Leaders of the Senate and House of Representatives can continue our collaborative work.

Sincerely,


Jake Corman
President Pro Tempore
State Senator, 34th District


Bryan Cutler
Speaker
State Representative, 100th District

cc: The Honorable Kim Ward
The Honorable Kerry Benninghoff
The Honorable Jay Costa
The Honorable Joanna McClinton