

Senator Manchin Fights to Curb Drug Abuse

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.

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.

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 22, 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.

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

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.

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.