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April 7, 2022

Ms. Miriam Delphin-Rittmon
Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Ms. Miriam Delphin-Rittmon,

This letter is to support the City of Huntington's application for funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Funding from SAMHSA will support the Training Responders to Assess, Initiate, and Navigate (TRAIN) project, which will train responders and community stakeholders on how to best help individuals in need navigate treatment and recovery support services. West Virginia has continued to have the highest drug overdose rate in the country, making this funding particularly important.

Between October 2020 and October 2021, it is estimated that more than 105,000 Americans, and 1,500 West Virginians, lost their lives to fatal drug overdoses. I am especially pleased by the efforts of the City of Huntington to address the drug epidemic by helping responders effectively address substance use across the entire continuum of care. This funding will support responders and train responders on how to most effectively offer support and care to those in need. In 2021, Cabell Emergency Medical Services responded to over 1,000 suspected overdoses. This funding will be critical to help the City of Huntington and Cabell County address the drug epidemic and save lives in West Virginia.

I sincerely appreciate you noting my interest in this application and affording it a full and fair review. Thank you in advance for your consideration, and please do not hesitate to contact my office if I may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Joe Manchin III
United States Senator

JMIII/jb