

*Joe Manchin III*  
WEST VIRGINIA



*United States Senate*  
WASHINGTON, DC

Thursday, May 31, 2018

James Carroll  
Acting Director  
Office of National Drug Control Policy  
750 17<sup>th</sup> St., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Director Carroll:

Unfortunately my home state has gained notoriety recently due to the horrific increase of overdose deaths, whether from opioid prescription abuse, meth, or heroin. This has also be recognized by the President with his declaration of the Opioid Crisis as a Public Health Emergency.

With the goal of fighting this crisis in West Virginia, I write to express my strong support for Mineral County West Virginia's request to be designated a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area in coordination with the Office of National Drug Control Policy. This designation will enable Mineral County to stem the tide of illicit drugs that are entering our state from the nearby Interstate Highway System.

According to the CDC, 627, 725, 884 West Virginians died from drug overdoses in 2014, 2015, and 2016, respectively. Behind each of these numbers is a family and a community that is suffering, and with the continued abuse of prescription medication and ready availability of illicit drugs such as heroin and meth this problem will only continue.

It is my hope that the Mineral County's request to be designated a HIDTA will be afforded every possible consideration. West Virginia and its communities are making great strides to help the people of West Virginia and Appalachia to lead healthier, safer lives, and with your help we will be able to continue this vital work. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of any assistance.

With warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Joe Manchin III".

Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator