# **Senator Manchin Works for the Northern Panhandle**

**Investing in the Northern Panhandle**

Through his work on the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator Manchin has helped direct over $78 million in federal investment to Hancock, Brooke, Ohio, Marshall, and Wetzel Counties so far in 2018. These include:

* $36 million from the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal-aid Highway Program to Brooke County to assist with the construction, preservation, and improvements of eligible highways and bridges.
* $5.6 million from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to Northern Panhandle Headstart, Inc. to promote school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of low-income children.
* $3.5 million in grants and loans to the City of New Cumberland through the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Office of Rural Development to support water system upgrades and plant improvements, including the installation of a new water line to improve service and fire protection to 591 customers.

**Combatting the Opioid Epidemic**

In April 2018, Senator Manchin introduced the Handle with Care Act to connect children who experience traumatic events, including domestic violence situations, drug raids, overdoses, and more, to school resources that are designed to provide the child with trauma-informed care. Senator Manchin also successfully pushed to include $50 million in grant funding in the recent opioid bill that can be used for trauma-informed care programs like this. Crittenton Services, Inc. in Wheeling is an active partner in this effort and a supporter of the legislation.

In the annual appropriations bill last year, Senator Manchin helped lead the effort to change the federal grant funding formula so that places like West Virginia that have been the hardest hit by drug crisis will receive priority consideration. This change helped direct over $35 million to West Virginia this year, including $293,250 to CHANGE, Inc. in Wheeling. Based on the old formula, West Virginia would have received roughly half of that amount.

In September 2017, Senator Manchin announced $125,000 was awarded to Youth Services System in Wheeling and the Brooke Hancock Family Resource Network in Weirton from the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy’s (ONDCP) Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Support Program to help prevent youth substance abuse.

In October 2016, Senator Manchin worked with Mallinckrodt, a global specialty pharmaceutical company, to distribute 1,000 drug deactivation pouches to each county in West Virginia to ensure proper disposal of unused or outdated prescription medications.

In August 2012, at the urging of Senator Manchin, the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) designated Brooke, Hancock, Marshall, and Ohio counties as High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA), providing critical additional support and financial resources to law enforcement agencies operating in the area.

**Growing Our Economy**

As a former small business owner, Senator Manchin understands the need for increased economic development in the state. This is why he began a series of job fairs throughout West Virginia to connect West Virginians with available job opportunities and skills. For the past several years, Senator Manchin has teamed up with local organizations such as Volunteer West Virginia, Workforce West Virginia, and other state and community partners to host 36 job fairs across the state, including one in Wheeling earlier this year at the Highlands Event Center.

As a member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, & Science, Senator Manchin oversees the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) which provides critical grant funding and technical expertise to state and local partners such as the Bel-O-Mar Regional Council in Wheeling that received $70,000 to help attract capital investment and create jobs in the region and the Business Development Corporation of the Northern Panhandle that received $300,000 to fund the creation of a Weirton Area Reuse Plan for repurposing, redeveloping, upgrading infrastructure, and attracting new investment to a former steel facility and underutilized industrial land in Hancock County.

**Protecting Your Healthcare**

Cancer, heart disease, diabetes, arthritis, asthma and pregnancy are all examples of a pre-existing condition and nearly 800,000 West Virginians have one, and Senator Manchin continues to do everything he can to protect access to affordable healthcare for all West Virginians. In September 2018, he urged his colleagues to pass a resolution that would protect millions of Americans and hundreds of thousands of West Virginians with preexisting conditions from losing their healthcare as a result of a lawsuit brought forth by 20 Attorneys General that would allow insurance companies to deny health insurance to people with preexisting conditions.

On August 4, Senator Manchin hosted a roundtable discussion at the Wheeling Hospital with faith leaders from Wheeling, Moundsville, Weirton, Chester, Newell, and Huntington to hear their concerns about health insurance and to urge their support for continued coverage of pre-existing medical conditions.

**Promoting West Virginia Energy**

Senator Manchin led the fight to protect the Title XVII loan program so that innovative energy projects like the Appalachian Storage Hub can compete for much-needed federal financing. He secured funding in 2017, 2018, and the upcoming 2019 appropriations bill for the program despite repeated attempts to zero it out.

In early 2017, Senator Manchin helped lead the effort to repeal the duplicative and unnecessary Stream Protection Rule.

In April 2015 and again in February 2017, Senator Manchin voted to repeal the Obama-era Waters of the United States rule. In January 2018, the Environmental Protection Agency officially finalized the delay of the rule.

Over the past two years, Senator Manchin has championed funding to pursue technologies that extract critical minerals (rare earth elements) from coal and coal byproducts to help create a domestic supply for these valuable materials so we are not dependent on imports from hostile foreign nations.

**Supporting Affordable Housing**

Senator Manchin understands the importance of supporting one another in times of need, whether it is seniors, children, and veterans, and he believes that it’s important to do everything possible to ensure West Virginians have the necessary resources to get back on their feet and provide for their families. This starts with decent, affordable housing, which is why Senator Manchin has fought to protect federal housing programs that work for West Virginia such as:

* The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care program which awarded $423,047 earlier this year to the Greater Wheeling Coalition for the Homeless to help support individuals and families experiencing homelessness; and
* The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that provided $1,162,941 in Community Development Block Grant funding and $679,670 in HOME program funding for the City of Wheeling and $414,793 in Community Development Block Grant funding to the City of Weirton earlier this year to help provide safe, affordable housing and expand economic opportunities.

**Responding to Disasters**

Earlier this year, Senator Manchin led the West Virginia delegation in urging the President to declare a major disaster in response to the severe storms that caused flooding, landslides, mudslides, and wind damage in 21 counties throughout West Virginia, including Hancock, Brooke, Marshall, and Wetzel Counties. A major disaster declaration was issued on April 17th and over $600,000 has been obligated to date through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).