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**Heller Announces $7.2 Million to the State of Nevada Health Division and $1.7 Million for Community Health Centers to Combat the Opioid Crisis**

*Funding Follows U.S. Senate’s Passage of Seven of Heller’s Bills to Help Nevada Address the Opioid Epidemic*

**WASHINGTON** – U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) today announced that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will award $7.2 million to the State of Nevada Health Division and a total of $1.7 million to community health centers to help combat the opioid crisis throughout the state. This funding will be awarded through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and will enable community health centers in Nevada to expand access to substance abuse and mental health services.

[According to estimates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter_axiosvitals&stream=top-stories), 757 people died from drug overdoses in Nevada in a single year. From 2010 to 2016, [85 percent of the opioid-related deaths in Nevada were deemed accidents](http://dpbh.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/dpbhnvgov/content/Resources/opioids/Opioid%20Infographic.pdf), and [opioid-related emergency room encounters increased by more than 130 percent](http://dpbh.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/dpbhnvgov/content/Resources/opioids/Opioid%20Infographic.pdf) over a six-year period.

**The full breakdown of grants can be found below:**

* The State of Nevada Health Division will receive $7,219,593.
* The Silver State Health Services will receive $285,000.
* The First Person Care Clinic will receive $285,000.
* The Community Health Alliance will receive $285,000.
* The Firstmed Health and Wellness Center will receive $285,000.
* The Nevada Health Centers, Inc. will receive $285,000.
* The Northern Nevada HIV Outpatient Program, Education Services will receive $285,000.

“The opioid epidemic has rocked Nevada communities throughout the state, and that is why I welcome HHS’s announcement that it will award $7.2 million to the State of Nevada Health Division and a total of $1.7 million to community health centers to help the state prevent opioid abuse and provide treatment to those who need it,” **said Heller**. “Opioid abuse and addiction have stolen the lives of far too many Nevadans, which is why I have been working to navigate into law seven of my proposals that will provide Nevada with the tools it needs to help addresses the opioid crisis. I was encouraged that the U.S. Senate passed the Opioid Crisis Response Act earlier this week, and I will continue to push Congress to take the steps necessary to address drug abuse and addiction.”

[Earlier this week, the U.S. Senate passed the Opioid Crisis Response Act, which included seven of Heller’s  proposals that will help mothers, children, and individuals who are struggling with addiction.](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=E121E784-B9FD-4F74-B141-1C053B82D2C4) For example, Heller helped author provisions that will make sure that treatment is available for pregnant women who have a substance abuse disorder, reduce the number of fraudulent and duplicative prescriptions, and increase seniors’ access to information about opioid use and pain management. Additionally, Heller’s bipartisan [Caring Recovery for Infants and Babies (CRIB) Act](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=19CC9A4D-3CA2-4395-AECA-B6BBA5F800EF) was included in this package and it will allow Medicaid to cover specialized withdrawal care for infants suffering from neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS).

**Below is a full list of legislation included in the Opioid Response Act that Heller either authored or co-authored:**

* **S.2909, Assessing Barriers to Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Act** *(Heller/Bennet).* This would require the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to identify barriers to doctors’ and pharmacists’ provision of medication-assisted treatment (MAT) in Medicaid. This bill would help support states’ removing barriers so doctors and pharmacists can use the least burdensome MAT distribution methods.
* **S.2911, Enhancing Patient Access to Non-Opioid Treatment Options***(Heller/Casey).* This legislation would clarify states’ legal authority to pursue non-opioid related prescribing.
* **S.2921, Securing Flexibility to Treat Substance Use Disorders Act** *(Heller/Menendez).* This legislation would codify the regulations permitting managed care plans to cover treatment in an institution for mental disease (IMD) for a certain number of days in a month in lieu of other types of services.
* **S.2707, Informing Seniors about Opioids Act** *(Nelson/Heller).*This legislation would update the “Medicare and You” handbook to include information about opioid use, pain management, and alternative pain management treatments.
* **S.2460, Every Prescription Conveyed Securely Act** *(Bennet/Heller/Warren/Toomey).* This legislation would direct health care providers to use electronic prescribing for controlled substances for Medicare Part D transactions.  Electronic prescriptions would generate real-time information on opioid use and streamline the prescription process for both providers and their patients.
* **S.2899, Caring Recovery for Infants and Babies Act***(Brown/Portman/Capito/King/Manchin/Heller/* *Casey/Whitehouse***).**This legislation would recognize residential pediatric care centers within Medicaid to treat babies with neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS).
* **S.2922, Help for Moms and Babies Act** *(Stabenow/Heller).*This legislation would provide protection for pregnant women who have a substance abuse disorder and are seeking treatment within an IMD.  This bill would continue providing pregnant women seeking treatment with prenatal and postpartum services for 60 days under Medicaid.

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