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**Heller Announces Over $2.2 Million Awarded to Nevada Organizations to Help Children who are Victims of the Opioid Crisis**

**WASHINGTON** - U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) today announced that the Office for Victims of Crime within the U.S. Department of Justice awarded a total of $2,242,264 to three Nevada organizations to help children who are victims of the opioid crisis. Specifically, the Nevada Foundation for Positively Kids will receive $746,937, the Nevada Children’s Cabinet will receive $749,763, and the Nevada Washoe County Human Services Agency will receive $745,564.

“More than eight million children around the country have a parent who is struggling with a substance abuse disorder, and tragically children in Nevada are no exception. That is why I’m pleased to announce that three organizations in Nevada will receive a total of $2.2 million from the Department of Justice to support children in Nevada who are victims of the opioid epidemic,” **said Heller**. “Just last week, the President signed into law bipartisan legislation that will help Nevada strengthen its prevention, response, and recovery measures. The legislation – the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act – included eight of my provisions, including my measures to expand treatment options for pregnant women with substance abuse disorders and newborns who are suffering from painful symptoms of withdrawal.”

This announcement comes shortly after the President signed into law [eight of Heller’s bills as part of the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=A7052BD4-6205-4761-96BC-67C2C3A50471), legislation that works to expand access to treatment, provide support to caregivers and families, and even close loopholes that have led to more drugs on the streets and barriers to recovery.

“I am encouraged that Congress and the Executive Branch have worked together to tackle our nation’s opioid crisis, and I’m grateful for the collaborative efforts between federal agencies and Nevada organizations that work hard to support the kids in our communities who need it most. As the fifth most bipartisan member of the U.S. Senate, I will continue working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to give Nevada the tools and resources necessary to help those who are struggling with drug addiction recover,” **Heller added.**

**Below are eight of Heller’s measures included in the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act:**

• **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 help ensure women who are receiving care for a substance use disorder in a treatment facility receive prenatal and postpartum services.

• **S.2769, Opioid Addiction Action Plan Act (Heller/Menendez)**: This legislation would require the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to develop a plan to prevent opioid addiction and increase access to medication-assisted treatment.

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