



National Association of County & City Health Officials

*The National Connection for Local Public Health*

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **The Senate Opioid Bill Will Benefit U.S. Communities and the Local Health Departments Addressing the National Opioids Crisis**

Washington, DC, September 17, 2018 — The [National Association of County and City Health Officials](#) (NACCHO), representing nearly 3,000 local health departments, commends the Senate’s passage of the Opioid Crisis Response Act. Local health departments are on the front lines of this national public health crisis, working to protect and support communities across the country. NACCHO commends the Senate for creating a bill with both treatment and prevention measures similar to the House version.

“NACCHO is hopeful that an opioid package will be finalized and signed into law,” said NACCHO Chief Executive Officer, Lori Tremmel Freeman. “In addition to recognizing the value of preventive measures, the House and Senate have also acknowledged the infectious disease challenges of injection drug use associated with the opioid epidemic. These are complex issues, and we believe a public health approach is the most effective way to deal with this epidemic afflicting so many of our communities.”

### **Highlights of the Legislation**

The bipartisan Opioid Crisis Response Act accomplishes the following:

- Expands the grant program used to purchase naloxone, which was authorized in the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA)
- Authorizes the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to work to combat the opioid crisis through data collection, including grants for states, localities, and tribes

- Creates a CDC grant program to prevent and respond to infections including hepatitis and HIV
- Allows physicians to prescribe Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) for up to 275 patients at any one time
- Provides Food and Drug Administration authority to require drug manufacturers to package three- or seven-day supplies
- Increases education and training to promote improved prescribing practices

“The epidemic will be stopped community by community, and tailored approaches will be needed,” said Freeman. “NACCHO calls on Congress to ensure that appropriate funding for prevention and response to the opioid epidemic reaches local communities.”

To learn more about NACCHO’s position on the opioid epidemic, [click here](#).

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#### **About NACCHO**

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) represents the nation's nearly 3,000 local health departments. These city, county, metropolitan, district, and tribal departments work every day to protect and promote health and well-being for all people in their communities. For more information about NACCHO, please visit [www.naccho.org](http://www.naccho.org).