



MEDIA ADVISORY
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 6, 2018

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Kris Hart Introduces fifth proposed Congressional Bill:

Let's End the Opioid Epidemic Now!

Philadelphia and Montgomery County, Pennsylvania – The Team Hart campaign released their fifth proposed Congressional Bill aimed to end the extreme opioid epidemic that is impacting our society.

“Just about every person knows someone who has either personally or indirectly been affected by this opioid crisis. It is a shame and it needs to end now,” Hart said.

“While I trust families and communities to lead this charge it has unfortunately gotten out of control. I prefer limited government, but when we have an epidemic like this affecting our communities and our economy, the government needs to address it with real solutions. I am putting forward a Bill to do exactly that,” Hart said.

As a trained Business, Economics and Public Policy student from the George Washington University and a small business owner employing hundreds, Kris knows the impact this epidemic is having on our families and neighbors, the public health of our communities and the impact it has had on our economy.

“Let's keep America healthy, working and involved, not incarcerated. Let's look out for and support our neighbors, families and friends that are struggling. Not only does it impact our families and friends but it is destructive to our economy. The productivity costs and health care costs affect us all. It is in all of our best interests and we have waited too long to address this issue. The time is now!”

Candidate Kris Hart will release many more proposed Bills for action in the coming weeks. Kris just released his first “Candid Conversations with the Candidate” and said he looks forward many more and to “open Civil Discussion and pursuing his Civic Duty.”

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H. R. 1007

To end the Opioid Epidemic in America.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 3RD, 2019

Mr. HART introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

A BILL

To end the Opioid Epidemic in America and support individuals in their quest in this battle to leave the valleys of the shadow of death and progress to productive members of our great society.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “A Hand-up and not a handout: We are Our Brother’s Keeper.”

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) Our Nation is facing a stinging and alarming crisis in our battle with drugs.

(2) The Opioid Epidemic is found and affects every community, neighborhood, city, family, class, race and gender in our society. It does not discriminate based on income level, class, race, religion, sexual orientation, geographical location, educational level, etc.

(3) Almost 100 Americans die every single day after overdosing on opioids, more than motor vehicle accidents, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse. According to the American Society of Addictive Medicine “Drug overdose is the leading cause of accidental death in the US, with 52,404 lethal drug overdoses in 2015. Opioid addiction is driving this epidemic, with 20,101 overdose deaths related to prescription pain relievers, and 12,990 overdose deaths related to heroin in 2015.”

(4) 92 million, or 37.8%, of American adults used prescription opioids in 2014; 11.5 million, or 4.7%, misused them; and 1.9 million, or 0.8%, had a use disorder. The epidemic is spreading so rapidly that the numbers are likely higher now, according to a survey in 2015 of 51,200 Americans according to the National Survey on Drug Abuse and Health.

(5) In 2015 about one-third, 92 million Americans or 38% used prescription opioids in 2015 according to Dr. Wilson Compton, deputy director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

(5) Opioids are a class of drugs that include the illegal drug heroin, synthetic opioids such as fentanyl, and pain relievers available legally by prescription, such as oxycodone (OxyContin[®]), hydrocodone (Vicodin[®]), codeine, morphine, and many others.

(4) The direct and indirect costs of The Opioid Epidemic are impossible to determine but certainly astronomical including the loss of productivity in the economy, healthcare treatment, mental rehabilitation treatment, recovery treatment, crime, sickness, emotional damage, funerals, loss of life early, taxes, money going to drug dealers, etc.

(5) Often the case is not a criminal or someone who is in an environment exposed to drugs but someone who has a regular back injury or something similar, is legally prescribed pain killers from a Doctor and becomes addicted to said substance. When they cannot get a similar prescription but are now dependent upon drugs they sometimes seek out illegal substances.

SEC. 3. RESPONSIBILITIES OF SOCIETY TO PROTECT OUR NEIGHBORS AND FAMILY MEMBERS IN NEED. BE IT SO ORDERED

(a) **BE IT RESOLVED.** —The Congress of the United States of America recognizes there is a national Opioid Epidemic and it is a National Health Crisis.

(b) **IT IS ORDERED.** —The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in conjunction with the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office and an established Special Committee on Our Brother’s Keeper must work in partnership with each other and any associated outside non-partisan and non-profit institutions to prepare a budget to fully address the situation and submit it to Congress with explanation and testimony no later than sixty (60) days after the passage of this legislation.

(b) **WITHOUT EXCEPTION.** —Upon approval the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is to be fully funded and have all the resources it needs to work with local communities and municipalities to address the situation.

(c) **WITHOUT EXCEPTION.** —It is resolved that every single American citizen who wants and seeks treatment will have private professional treatment available to them.

(d) WITHOUT EXCEPTION. —Every individual who brings in any opioids to an approved medical facility for disposal will receive free treatment and will not be eligible to be guilty or to be under any punishment from the law.

(e) IMPLEMENTATION. —The Department of Health and Human Services must have a cooperative agreement with each state to implement the services needed to diminish and extinguish the Opioid Epidemic.

(f) IMPLEMENTATION. —The Department of Health and Human Services shall work with a Special Committee established by the Congress made of Congressmembers (4), DHHS officials (4), State Officials (4), medical professionals (4), local officials (4), private professionals (4), professional consultants (2) and CBO officials (2) to establish a guideline for allocations of funds to states and local communities as well as an agreement to ensure the success of the program as well as the efficiency and effectiveness of the spending. The “Special Committee on Our Brother’s Keeper” Chairperson will be nominated by the Special Committee as its first Order of Business. If there is a tie vote on any Special Committee business the Chairman of the Public Welfare Committee, who is an ex-Officio Member will have the tie-breaking vote. Members of the Committee may be nominated by any Member of Congress and will be approved by the Committee of Public Welfare within ten (10) days of the passage of this Bill. The Special Committee will report to the Committee on Public Welfare and the full report will be delivered to the full Congress and the American people. It shall be established and published within ninety (90) days of the passage of this Bill and each participating state shall have a signed agreement within thirty (30) days of its passage. Any state that does not establish or propose its own agreement accepted by the U.S. Congress Committee on Public Welfare will not be allocated funding.

(g) IMPLEMENTATION. —The full report from the Special Committee on Our Brother’s Keeper shall include:

(i) A detailed and line-itemed proposed budget based on the proposed program and states individual needs if accepted.

(ii) A full Business Proposal for tackling the problem including best practices, most successful programs, strategic partnerships, etc.

(iii) Guidelines for how to best combat the situation at the state and local level.

(iv) A proposed agreement for each State, City or local Community seeking funds.

(v) Measures and expectations for success and holding every individual and entity (state, municipality, partnership organization, etc.) and every dollar accountable.

(h) IMPLEMENTATION. —All partnerships (state, municipality, partnership organization, etc.) that receive allocations overseen by the Special Committee on Our Brother’s Keeper are required to give a monthly report on the measures of their success as defined by the Special Committee. Any partner receiving funds that does not fulfill the requirements and expectations of the Special Committee will be put on notice at any given time and have sixty (60) days to clean up their act and be in accordance. If they are not, as will be dictated and monitored by the Special Committee the funds allocated for this program will be re-allocated to a sub-Committee appointed by the Special Committee to oversee its distribution and effectiveness.