

United States Senate

August 22, 2017

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
U.S. Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

I write in strong support of the New Hampshire Department of Safety's application for the US DOJ COPS Office grant under the Anti-Heroin Task Force. I recognize that the Department of Justice only plans to award a limited number of grants, which is why I strongly urge you to target resources to the hardest-hit states, such as New Hampshire.

New Hampshire is second in the nation for overdose deaths per capita. In response to this epidemic, New Hampshire law enforcement has developed and grown innovative regional and cross-agency partnerships. The New Hampshire and Massachusetts state police forces are working in close collaboration in a pilot program targeting cross-border distribution networks. New Hampshire law enforcement also works closely with the DEA, with several state and local police officers embedded within the agency. In addition, under the leadership of the New Hampshire Attorney General, police officers across the state are now trained to investigate overdose deaths as potential homicides, and are now tracing drugs up the supply chain. The state-funded Granite Hammer/Granite Shield program is supporting partnerships between the state police and local police departments to find and eradicate distribution chains.

This two-year, \$690,000 grant will supplement local and regional Granite Hammer/Granite Shield efforts and expand the New Hampshire-Massachusetts state police partnership. In addition, the state Information Analysis Center is currently overwhelmed with data and de-confliction requests from law enforcement. This grant will support an additional analyst to ensure law enforcement efforts are as effective and efficient as possible.

New Hampshire has demonstrated its commitment to investing its own dollars in fighting this wave of crime and drug death. These dollars will serve as an important force multiplier, allowing New Hampshire law enforcement to further expand its efforts and partnerships. Thank you for your careful consideration to this grant application, and please do not hesitate to contact David Christie in my office if we can be of further assistance.

With every good wish,



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator