



April 6, 2026

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
United States Senate
Hart Senate Office Building
136 Hart Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chris Murphy
United States Senate
Hart Senate Office Building
706 Hart Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Blumenthal and Murphy:

On behalf of the Connecticut Hospital Association, we write in strong support of The Governor's Prevention Partnership (GPP)'s Congressionally Directed Spending request to address the ongoing opioid epidemic in rural Eastern Connecticut.

Connecticut's hospitals continue to see the impact of substance use disorder across the care continuum. While recent data show encouraging declines in overdose deaths, sustained progress will require continued investment in upstream, community-based prevention strategies that reduce risk before clinical intervention is needed.

GPP's proposal reflects a practical, evidence-informed approach to prevention. By distributing drug deactivation pouches directly to households in Connecticut's Second Congressional District and pairing this effort with targeted public education, the initiative addresses one of the most immediate and preventable risks, unused medications in the home. This approach builds on the demonstrated success of GPP's *Prevention Starts with You™* campaign, which has already removed millions of unused pills from circulation in Connecticut communities.

Expanding this effort to rural areas is particularly important, as these communities often face barriers to accessing prevention resources and have experienced disproportionate impacts from the opioid crisis. Direct-to-household distribution, combined with clear, actionable education for parents and caregivers, represents a scalable and cost-effective intervention.

Hospitals strongly support strategies that reduce avoidable harm and complement clinical care. Investments like this not only improve community safety but also help alleviate downstream strain on emergency departments and behavioral health systems.

We appreciate your continued leadership in addressing the opioid epidemic and respectfully urge your support for this important request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allison', written in a cursive style.

Allison Matthews-Wilson
Senior Director, Workforce and Clinical Policy

AMW:ljs