

haven't had a chance to look at it yet, I hope you will. I hope it will raise awareness around our country of this issue.

It talks about something incredibly important as to how we approach it, which is that addiction is a disease and should be treated as such. As the Surgeon General says, this is not a moral failing but rather it is like other diseases—something that actually changes your brain and creates a problem that must be dealt with through treatment and longer term recovery just as would be the case of other diseases. I think that alone is a significant finding by the Surgeon General, to help us come up with the right policies to address it but also raise awareness in communities around the country.

The first chapter of this report talks about something this Chamber has spent a lot of time on, which is the importance of prevention and education. It talks about the need to look at this from a science perspective. It talks about the need to look at it in terms of longer term recovery. That summary in the first chapter is again something I would commend everybody to read just to sort of bring you up to speed, if you haven't been, on the importance of this issue and importance of addressing it.

The next chapter focuses on the science behind addiction. This is consistent with a conference we had in Washington, DC, almost a year ago now—Senator WHITEHOUSE and myself—in anticipation of proposing legislation in this area. We brought in experts from all over the country to talk about the science behind addiction, why it happens, how it happens. As was indicated earlier, that was something that led us to focus on the fact that addiction is a disease. It is something that impacts the brain. The brain responds to chemical substances in certain ways for certain people, and that addiction is something that has to be addressed through, again, treatment and longer term recovery.

The legislation we came up with after this, by the way, is called the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act. That legislation was passed late in the summer. It is now in the process of being implemented by the administration. I encourage the Surgeon General, with his great 11-page report, to also focus on implementing this legislation as soon as possible, including in this area of treating it as a disease.

The next chapter talks about a key component, which is prevention and education. It talks about the need for us to use evidence-based techniques around the country. Again, this legislation—the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, also known as CARA—focuses on this and starts a national awareness campaign to make this link between prescription drugs and heroin. Sadly, many people who are on heroin—probably four out of five people

who are addicted to heroin—started with prescription drugs. Sometimes it was because of an accident or an injury where someone was prescribed a painkiller that was addictive that then led to the addiction and then led to the use of heroin as a less-expensive and sometimes more accessible alternative to it.

I think that issue of prevention and education is incredibly important. The take-back programs on pharmaceuticals is also important. The anti-drug coalitions supported in our legislation are also important. This is all part of how to get people from falling into this funnel of addiction, which is to do a much better job of explaining the problem and understanding the link particularly between prescription drugs and these other opioids.

The next chapter talks about how we treat addiction. This talks about the need for us to get people out of the criminal justice system and into treatment. Our legislation helps in that as well by providing funds for diversion programs to ensure that people who are addicted are not simply locked up but are also given the opportunity to be able to get into a treatment program and into a longer term recovery program.

The next chapter of this report also talks about recovery. CARA is the first legislation to actually fund recovery. I think we need to do even more in this area, but we certainly learned again from conferences in Washington, DC, over the last few years, that the success rate is increased dramatically where you have not just a short-term treatment program but a longer term program of recovery, where people are surrounded by those who support them, and specifically sober housing arrangements and other ways to support people with a supportive environment rather than going back to the old gang or the old family or the old environment. Again, the report today does a good job of talking about that and the importance of it.

The Surgeon General has a fashion for this, a commitment to it, and I applaud him for that. I do hope again that he focuses on this legislation. We have now passed it with the support of the administration. The President has signed it. The report does not mention the legislation, but it is consistent with every aspect of this report today.

This report, I hope, will raise awareness nationally, as I said, but I hope it also raises awareness of the need to move very quickly to put in place the grant programs that need to be there to help on prevention, education, treatment, and recovery, help our law enforcement community and other first responders to be able to get access to Narcan—this miracle drug that reverses the effects of an overdose—help to provide the training, help to ensure we do have more drug take-back programs around the country. These Federal programs need to be put in place right away to allow the Federal Government to be a better partner with

State and local government and with our communities and with our families to be able to reverse the tide on this issue that has, unfortunately, gripped my State and so many other States around the country.

I look forward to continuing to work with the Surgeon General on this issue. Again, I commend this report today to your attention. I hope we will be able as a Congress to continue to provide the funding, as we have in the short-term spending that is in effect right now. We provided funding to ensure this legislation can be set up so we can stand up these programs and get this started. We need to continue that effort and, I think, redouble our efforts, including passing additional legislation as it becomes apparent it is needed.

One piece of legislation I hope we move on, in addition to the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, is legislation to try to stop some of these synthetic drugs from coming into our communities. Carfentanil, fentanyl, and U-4 and other synthetic heroins are coming in increasingly from overseas—China, India, and other places. They come by mail. There is a way for us to be able to reduce that simply by requiring that those who send products by mail have the same requirements you would have if you were FedEx or UPS or a private carrier—to know where it is coming from and what is in it and where it is going and have that information being provided in advance electronically. Based on law enforcement officials, that will help us to be able to stem the tide of these poisons coming into our communities and infecting our families, our children.

These are all issues this Congress has taken up over the last 6 months with legislation, with specific programs, and I hope we can continue to fund that now, to get the administration to set up these programs, and to ensure that we are in a position to respond as new dangers arise, as we have seen with synthetic heroin coming from overseas.

I thank the Presiding Officer for giving me time today to talk about this. Again, I commend this report today by the Surgeon General to be able to increase awareness and to ensure that every community in America is armed with the facts and the information to be able to push back and to help save lives and restore lives of those addicted.

#### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 619, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 619) recognizing National Native American Heritage Month and

celebrating the heritages and cultures of Native Americans and the contributions of Native Americans to the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. PORTMAN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered

made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 619) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.  
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:07 p.m., adjourned until Friday, November 18, 2016, at 9:30 a.m.