

# Cantwell Priorities Become Law

**SUPPORT for Patients and Communities ACT:** On Wednesday, October 24, 2018, President Trump signed the *SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act* into law. This bipartisan legislation contains more than 70 proposals designed to help combat the opioid and heroin epidemic. Included in the bill are important initiatives and priorities that Senator Cantwell has authored and advocated for:



**ACCOUNTABILITY FOR DRUG MANUFACTURERS:** The bill includes Senator Cantwell's provisions to increase civil and criminal penalties on opioid manufacturers that fail to report suspicious orders of opioids or maintain effective controls against negligent distribution of opioids.

*Who This Helps:*

- Helps protect **communities** in Washington state from being flooded with diverted opioids.
- Strengthens existing **lawsuits** by **Everett, Seattle,** and **other localities** against negligent opioid makers.
- Helps keep **first responders** in Washington state safe by taking more illicit drugs off the street.



**HELP PREVENT FATAL OVERDOSES AND PROTECT FIRST**

**RESPONDERS:** The legislation includes \$46 million in annual federal funds for training and resources designed to help first responders and law enforcement prevent fatal overdoses and provide training to limit their exposure to deadly opioids, including fentanyl and carfentanyl.

*Who This Helps:*

- First responders and law enforcement agencies in **Seattle, Everett,** and **across the state** can apply for federal funds to help protect their officers/responders from exposure to deadly opioids.
- First responders and law enforcement agencies in **Seattle, Everett,** and **across the state** can apply for federal funds designed to provide training and resources for responding to drug overdoses.



**ENSURE EXPANDED ADDICTION TREATMENT COVERAGE:** The bill makes permanent the ability for qualified physicians to prescribe Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT), including Suboxone, for up to 275 patients at a time. This provision was set to expire in 2021.

*Who This Helps:*

- Physicians providing Medication-Assisted Treatment in **Seattle, Everett,** and **across the state** can permanently treat up to 275 patients, ensuring continued coverage for Washingtonians receiving treatment for opioid addiction.
- With a shortage of physicians able to provide Medication-Assisted Treatment, this provision makes sure that more patients are able to access life-saving care.



**FUNDS DRUG COURTS:** The bill provides \$75 million in annual funds for the Drug Court program, which helps reduce substance abuse and reduces criminal recidivism among non-violent offenders. In FY17, the Drug Court program provided \$1.2 million to Washington state.

*Who This Helped (in FY17 awards):*

- Total Washington state Awards: **\$1.2 million**
  - \$400,000 to **Grays Harbor County** Drug Court Implementation Project
  - \$400,000 to **Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe** Healing to Wellness Court
  - \$400,000 to **Clark County** Adult Drug Court Recovery

**PAST SUCCESS:** In March 2018, Senator Cantwell secured \$256 million in *Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) 2.0* funds as part of the FY18 Omnibus's \$4 billion in federal funds to combat the opioid and heroin epidemic. These funds included \$36 million to increase access to Naloxone and \$95 million for treatment.