

**Opening Statement  
Rep. Gene Green  
Opioid Conference  
July 6, 2016**

Thank you.

The prescription drug and heroin addiction crisis has ravaged too many of our families, neighbors, and communities in every corner of the country.

Nearly every 12 minutes, someone in America dies of a drug overdose. It is a grave reality, and we must face it head on.

I support the underlying legislation and believe these programs and authorizations have the potential to help expand access to treatment, improve prescribing practices, facilitate understanding of disease, and educate providers, policy makers and the public.

However, absent actual resources to address this crisis head-on and meaningfully impact those affected, I am afraid it will accomplish little.

Mr. Chairman, I join my colleagues and urging us to include robust funding for the opioid epidemic.

As we stated in our recent letter, the scope and urgency of the opioid crisis would justify this investment being considered emergency spending.

And yet we are willing to put Federal budget savings on the table, demonstrating that there is no excuse for inaction when it comes to funding for treatment and prevention of opioid addiction.

I want to thank my colleagues and the staff for their work to move this issue forward, and I yield back the balance of my time.