

**Congressman Steve Scalise**  
**Statement for the Record: “Federal Efforts to Combat the Opioid Crisis: A Status Update  
on CARA and Other Initiatives”**  
**Wednesday, October 25, 2017**

Opioid abuse is a major crisis in this country. We’ve all heard stories from families back home in our districts as this horrible epidemic has swept through communities across America.

Despite everyone's best efforts, the troubling statistics continue to rise. Louisiana was one of many states that experienced double digit increases in the percentage of opioid related deaths in recent years. Last year there were more opioid related deaths in southeast Louisiana than car crash fatalities.

There is no silver bullet to this problem which is what makes the committee’s work so important. Today’s hearing will allow us to measure how well recent reforms passed in Congress are being implemented, and tell us what more we can be doing in our fight against opioid abuse.

I want to thank Chairman Walden for allowing the full committee a chance to be a part of today’s hearing and I look forward to working with all of my colleagues to address our country’s opioid crisis.