

In many ways, Delaware reflects our nation. Geography – we're urban and rural, demographics, and unfortunately we are facing a growing opioid crisis.

Just yesterday, Delaware's death toll from this horrible disease rose to 171 for the year. This public health crisis is prevalent in districts across the Country and Congress has the opportunity to impact it in a meaningful way and take action. This is why it's so important to tackle this on a bipartisan basis. The opioid epidemic has taken a strong hold across the nation, and we must work together to combat the flow of drugs throughout our country. This is a problem for all states, but particularly on the east coast where compact states mean that none of us can act alone. Drug trafficking doesn't stop at Delaware's borders with Maryland, or Pennsylvania, or New Jersey – and neither does this public health crisis. Delaware and our neighbors have made great progress through collaborative programs like HIDTA and prescription drug monitoring programs, but that should be just the beginning. We aren't doing enough.

But there are people in Delaware, and in all of our communities, making a difference. Every day, on the ground, for people and families and neighborhoods they are combating this crisis on the ground. Thank you to the people who are fighting – the doctors, public safety officers, community groups, all of those doing what they can to help those around them. We need to join them.

I hope that we, in Congress, will all continue to work together to address this epidemic by providing resources for prevention, support for recovery, and access to care.