



C O N G R E S S M A N
MARK WALKER

Oversight & Government Reform Hearing
Local Responses and Resources to Curtail the Opioid Epidemic

Wednesday, April 11, 2018

STATEMENT

Addiction has become a major problem in North Carolina in recent years. In 2014, deaths related to drug poisoning surpassed firearm and motor vehicle related deaths. According to a recent study, North Carolina holds 4 of 25 cities with the highest rate of opioid abuse in the country. Even with these staggering numbers, it is estimated that only about 10 percent of people who suffer from a substance abuse disorder receive any type of treatment.

In October, I hosted a two-day, seven-stop opioid crisis tour across North Carolina to better understand the full scope of the opioid epidemic and get a firsthand account of the realities, burdens, and struggles of opioid addiction in North Carolina. Throughout the tour, one fact was clear: more action is needed. We must remain committed to working with local law enforcement, first responders, and local government to stop the overwhelming hardship this is causing to the families of our community.

North Carolina is fortunate to have received \$31 million to address the opioid crisis through the 21st Century Cures Act. The state is focused on efforts to increase access to prevention, treatment and recovery supports, reducing unmet treatment need, and reducing opioid-related overdoses and deaths.