

## **Background on Senator Sullivan's Work to Combat the Opioid Epidemic:**

- October of 2015 – Eight Alaska women who struggle with addiction visit Senator Sullivan in his Washington, DC office and serve as the inspiration for the 2016 Alaska Wellness Summit: Conquering the Opioid Crisis.
- [\*\*July 13, 2016\*\*](#) – Sullivan helps champion passage of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA), legislation to combat the opioid epidemic across the nation, including Alaska.
- [\*\*August 4, 2016\*\*](#) – Sullivan convenes the Alaska Wellness Summit: Conquering the Opioid Crisis, dedicated to conquering the opioid and heroin epidemic scourging our nation and great state of Alaska. Speakers included: U.S. Health and Human Services Deputy Secretary Mary Wakefield, Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, top-level U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs officials, and esteemed Alaskans will be participating and speaking.
- [\*\*December 7, 2016\*\*](#) – Sullivan supports critical passage of the 21st Century Cures Act, which included \$1 billion over two years for states to combat the opioid crisis, along with other priorities.
- [\*\*April 25, 2017\*\*](#) – Sullivan invited to attend small, bipartisan group leaders at the White House for a meeting with the President's Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis, chaired by Governor Chris Christie (R-NJ).
- [\*\*October 26, 2017\*\*](#) – Sullivan attends White House for President Trump's announcement declaring the opioid crisis a public health emergency.
- [\*\*February 27, 2018\*\*](#) – Senator Sullivan joins seven of his Senate colleagues in authoring and introducing the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) 2.0 Act, bipartisan legislation to increase the funding authorization levels for the CARA programs enacted in 2016 and put in place additional policy reforms to help combat the opioid epidemic. Many provisions included in this legislation were adopted in the Opioid Crisis Response Act of 2018.
- [\*\*May 5, 2018\*\*](#) – Alaska Congressional Delegation welcomes a critical announcement by the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) designating areas surrounding Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau as High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA). Declaration represents the first new regional HIDTA program since 2001 and made Alaska the 50th state to be eligible for the federal grant program.
- [\*\*August 17, 2018\*\*](#) – Senator Sullivan convenes the Alaska Wellness Summit 2.0 – Confronting Alaska's Crime Wave, a gathering of federal, state and local community leaders dedicated to tackling the many challenges associated with the growing opioid and heroin epidemic. The summit was attended by top state and federal officials, including the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy Jim Carroll.