

ANGEL CRUZ, MEMBER  
180TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

528-E MAIN CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 202180  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2180  
PHONE: (717) 787-1407  
FAX: (717) 780-4769

3503 NORTH B STREET, UNIT #7  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19134  
PHONE: (215) 291-5643  
FAX: (215) 291-5647



**House of Representatives**  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Harrisburg

COMMITTEES

HUMAN SERVICES, CHAIR

March 26, 2019

The Honorable Josh Shapiro, Attorney General  
Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General  
16th Floor, Strawberry Square  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear General Shapiro,

We, members of the House Human Services Committee, applaud the efforts of the Office of the Attorney General to address the opioid crisis Pennsylvania is currently facing. We thank you for your work in holding drug dealers and doctors alike responsible for the role they play in this crisis, and especially for the expansion of investigations into the manufacture, sale and distribution of prescription opioids.

As such, we are writing to urge you, the top law enforcement official in Pennsylvania, to be a national example and lead the effort to hold these manufacturers and distributors accountable for their unlawful business practices, the public health crisis they have created and for the countless deaths this crisis has caused across our Commonwealth.

According to a study by the federal Drug Enforcement Administration and the University of Pittsburgh, the rate of overdose deaths in Pennsylvania is 42 deaths per 100,000 people, or almost double the national average of 22 deaths per 100,000. In some counties, the rate is as high as 77 deaths for every 100,000 people. These numbers are jarring and only begin to touch the surface of this epidemic. Other, just as costly, considerations include non-fatal overdoses, addiction treatment costs, babies born with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, children losing one or both parents, grandparents raising grandchildren, and the list goes on.

As we, the Human Services Committee, continue to work on legislative solutions to this crisis, we implore you to do all in your power to take swift and appropriate action to address the core source of this epidemic: opioid manufacturers and distributors.

Specifically, we urge you to file suit against the responsible companies for their unlawful business practices regarding the marketing and sale of their products, and to file wrongful death lawsuits on behalf of the thousands of Pennsylvania families who have lost loved ones to this epidemic.



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We, the undersigned, sincerely thank you for your time and consideration of this most important request. Further, we thank you for all you have done for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Angel Cruz".

Angel Cruz  
Democratic Chairman  
House Human Services Committee

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Danilo Burgos".

Danilo Burgos  
State Representative, 197th

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joe Hohenstein".

Joseph Hohenstein  
State Representative, 177th

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Stephen Kinsey".

Stephen Kinsey  
State Representative, 201st

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Mike Schlossberg".

Mike Schlossberg  
State Representative, 132nd

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Isabella Fitzgerald".

Isabella Fitzgerald  
State Representative, 203rd

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kristine C. Howard".

Kristine Howard  
State Representative, 167<sup>th</sup>

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Maureen E. Madden".

Maureen Madden  
State Representative, 115th

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Brian Sims".

Brian Sims  
State Representative, 182nd



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A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gene DiGirolamo".

Gene DiGirolamo  
State Representative, 18th

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jim Gregory".

Jim Gregory  
State Representative, 80th

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Doyle Heffley".

Doyle Heffley  
State Representative, 122nd

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Natalie Mihalek".

Natalie Mihalek  
State Representative, 40th

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lori Mizgorski".

Lori Mizgorski  
State Representative, 30th

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Thomas P. Murt".

Thomas Murt  
State Representative, 152nd

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Justin Simmons".

Justin Simmons  
State Representative, 131st

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James Struzzi".

James Struzzi  
State Representative, 62nd

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jonathan Hershey".

Jonathan Hershey  
State Representative, 82nd

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Todd Polinchock".

Todd Polinchock  
State Representative, 144th

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tarah Toohil".

Tarah Toohil  
State Representative, 116th