



Combating the Opioid Epidemic

What we have done:

- Enacted a best-in-the-country medical marijuana law to combat many medical conditions.
 - Among them are chronic pain and other conditions that are typically treated with opioids. According to one study, between 2000 and 2010 opioid-related fatalities and reductions in treatment admissions in states with medical marijuana dispensaries declined by about 20 percent.
- Redesigned the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program to reduce doctor-shopping, combat pill mills, and remove non-addictive drugs from the registry.
- Expanded and worked to protect Medicaid – helping over 125,000 people get treatment.
- Established 45 Centers of Excellence treatment programs that will allow nearly 11,000 Pennsylvanians to receive care.
- Expanded the drug-take back program to 700 boxes, destroying 300,000 pounds of drugs.
- Made naloxone available to all Pennsylvanians and provided state money to first responders and law enforcement to gain access to additional supplies.
- Created a childhood education program to instruct students on the dangers of opioids and heroin.
- Created ten sets of prescribing guidelines to assist health care professionals.
- Worked with Pennsylvania’s medical schools to create new curricula on opioids.
- Started a help hotline to connect individuals seeking treatment.
- Limited the number of opioids that can be prescribed to a minor or ER patient.
- Provided \$2 million to expand specialty drug courts.
- Began regulating and certifying recovery houses to ensure patients are receiving appropriate care.