

Resolution Number: 1

Submitted by: The Honorable Mayor Martin J. Walsh, City of Boston

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS AS A
NATIONAL HEALTH CRISIS**

WHEREAS, substance use disorders have taken a heartbreaking toll on too many Americans and their families, while straining law enforcement and treatment programs in cities across the country.

WHEREAS, the opioid epidemic is estimated to have taken more than 33,000 lives in 2015 and more than 500,000 are projected to have died from drug overdoses over the last 10 years.

WHEREAS, in 2015, over 27 million people in the United States reported current use of illicit drugs or misuse of prescription drugs, and over 66 million people (nearly a quarter of the adult and adolescent population) reported binge drinking in the past month.

WHEREAS, the opioid epidemic is a national emergency and cities need strong federal/state/local partnerships to meet the challenges of this crisis.

WHEREAS, the Surgeon General of the United States issued the first-ever report, *Facing Addiction in America*, on Alcohol, Drugs and Health defining addiction as one of the critical health problems of our time with data showing the problem is deepening and the consequences are getting more deadly.

WHEREAS, over the past few decades, we have built robust evidence-based interventions, treatments, and recovery services that work, particularly when started early.

WHEREAS, mayors and cities across the United States are battling to provide the necessary resources and access to quality care needed by their citizens.

WHEREAS, recovery has many pathways that should be tailored to meet the unique psychological and behavioral needs of each individual.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges that all first responders have access to naloxone and are trained in its use;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that cities are provided the necessary technical and financial resources to tackle this nation epidemic.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges physicians to follow the new Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on opioid prescribing best practices;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls for full funding for the 21st Century Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CURES), the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block grants from SAMHSA and HRSA's Substance Abuse and Treatment Program;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS urges that the Office of National Drug Control Policy be adequately funded to continue to serve as the central point of coordinating efforts across federal agencies and with states and cities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the recently appointed *President's Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis* should recognize the importance of and support for locally-based efforts, utilize evidence-based and data driven solutions to address this crisis, and address the factors contributing to the "treatment gap" that exists including the inability to access or afford care and the lack of screening in general health care settings.