

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

# JOHN HAMPTON

Dear Friends,

All too often, we hear in the news incidents of people suffering and at times even dying from opioid addiction or an overdose. Many view this epidemic as a health crisis as there has been an over 150% increase in abuse over the last 10 years. This is a very serious concern and I believe we all may know someone who has been affected by this issue. However, there is information and assistance out there for people. Please join me for an important community forum on opioid addiction:

**Community Forum on Opioid Addiction**  
**Thursday, September 28th, 6:00p.m.**  
**Simsbury Public Library**  
**725 Hopmeadow Street in Simsbury**

I hope that you can attend and please feel free to contact me if you or someone you know might need more help with this or any other matter. Thank you.

Sincerely,



**PROUDLY REPRESENTING SIMSBURY - 16TH DISTRICT**

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## OPIOID ADDICTION – A HEALTH CRISIS

Connecticut is facing an increase in the number of emergency room visits and drug overdose deaths involving opioid analgesics (e.g., prescription painkillers such as oxycodone, hydrocodone, and fentanyl). While we make efforts to increase access to drug treatment programs and to prevent drug overdoses, we must also do more to prevent people from becoming addicted to opioids in the first place. On a state and federal level we need to consider mental health and substance abuse treatments the same as we do with other illnesses. The goal is to make appropriate treatment options accessible and affordable. Based on recommendations from Connecticut substance abuse advocates and healthcare professionals we have passed the following legislation (*Public Act 17-131*):

- *Generally reduce, from a seven-day to a five-day supply, the maximum amount of opioid drugs a minor may be prescribed*
- *Allow a prescribing practitioner to issue a standing order (i.e., non-patient specific prescription) to a licensed pharmacist for an opioid antagonist*
- *Require certain health insurers to cover specified medically necessary, inpatient detoxification services for an insured diagnosed with a substance use disorder*

The Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) has a toll-free number connecting residents seeking treatment and services for an opioid addiction to local walk-in assessment centers. Residents will now be able to call **1-800-563-4086**, 24 hours a day, to connect them or a loved one to a walk-in assessment center.

## DRUG TREATMENT ASSISTANCE INFORMATION

Dept. of Mental Health and Addiction Services  
(860) 418-6962

United Way CT Infoline  
(Crisis Intervention)  
2-1-1

Farmington Valley Health District  
Phone: (860) 352-2333

Capitol Area Substance Abuse Council (CASAC)  
(860) 286-9333

Wheeler Clinic  
(888)-793-3500

Narcotics Anonymous  
(800) 627-3543

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