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US HOUSE JUDICIARY SUBCOMMITTEE TO HOLD FIELD BRIEFING IN BOSTON

The US House Judiciary Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law announced that will be holding a Congressional Field Briefing in Boston on **Monday, April 12th, at 1:00pm in the Gardner Auditorium**. The purpose of this hearing will be to inform the Subcommittee on the recent release of the OxyContin and Heroin Commission report with a focus on the federal government's response to the opioid epidemic.

“I am pleased that the US House decided to hold this important hearing in Boston. The epidemic of addiction continues to plague our citizens and does not discriminate based on age, sex, race or economic status. With as many as two individuals in the Commonwealth dying each day of drug overdoses, we must continue to be aggressive and change our response, both as a state and nationally, to a crisis that is crippling our communities,” said State Senator Steven A. Tolman (D-Brighton). “I commend Chairman Cohen and Congressman Delahunt for looking at the federal response to this issue and I look forward to engaging with the Subcommittee to develop new federal policies.”

“The report put forth by the Massachusetts OxyContin and Heroin Commission is excellent, and reflects an in-depth review of an epidemic that is devastating to individuals, families, and the community,” said Congressman Bill Delahunt. “Moreover, until it is successfully addressed, healthcare costs will continue to escalate and impact our economy. This crisis is not limited to Massachusetts, and therefore I am holding this field briefing so that Members of the Judiciary Committee can understand how the federal government can assist states and communities in addressing the issues highlighted in the report. I would be remiss not to note the leadership of Senator Tolman, and thank him and every member of the commission for their extraordinary effort and commitment.”

The hearing is the product of coordination between the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation and the OxyContin and Heroin Commission to address substance abuse issues nationwide. The hearing is open to the public; however, testimony is by invitation only. Senator Tolman was the chair of the recent OxyContin and Heroin Commission and served as chair of the Joint Committee on Mental Health and Substance Abuse from 2005-2007 in the Massachusetts General Court.

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