

2016 Resolution No: 1

Submitted by: Mayor Martin J. Walsh, Boston, Massachusetts

**Resolution Supporting Expanded Access to Treatment Medication for
Individuals Addicted to Opioids**

WHEREAS, opioid abuse and addiction has had a devastating impact on cities and towns across the United States, as quality of illicit drugs continues to rise while street prices simultaneously fall; and

WHEREAS, access to immediate and long-term treatment is imperative in reducing the impact that opioid abuse and addiction continues to have on individuals and families across the country; and

WHEREAS, to get people the help that they need, we have to meet them where they are, whether that's on the street, in the hospital, at home, at work, or in school; and

WHEREAS, help starts with education and providing parents, family members, first responders, and medical professionals with all of the available tools to treat opioid abuse and addiction; and

WHEREAS, help means prevention and intervention, and ensuring adequate funding for immediate, transitional, and long-term care, along with recovery coaches, peer support, and family support, we can extend these vital bridges to sobriety; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors supports congress in amending federal law to allow medical professionals such a nurse practitioners and physicians assistants to prescribe opioid addiction treatment medication, such as buprenorphine; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors supports the Recovery Enhancement for Addiction Treatment Act (TREAT Act), introduced into the Senate and the House sponsored by Senator Markey (Massachusetts) and Representative Higgins (New York) as S.1455 and H.R.2536; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors supports President Barack Obama's \$1.1 Billion in new funding to address the prescription opioid abuse and heroin use epidemic - funding that will expand capacity, make services more affordable, improve access to life-saving overdose-reversal drugs, increase and improve training on appropriate opioid prescribing and addiction education at medical schools, and increase the capacity of recovery support services.

Projected Cost: Unknown