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STATE ANNOUNCES \$525 MILLION IN FUNDING TO ABATE OPIOID CRISIS IN MASSACHUSETTS

*Incoming Resources for Prevention, Harm Reduction, Treatment, and Recovery Services;
Funding a Result of Nationwide Settlement with Opioid Distributors*

BOSTON – Representative Todd M. Smola (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways & Means) Has announced that towns in the First Hampden District will be receiving funds to address the national opioid epidemic. Following a resolution with the nation’s largest drug distributors, Cardinal, McKesson, and AmerisourceBergen, and Johnson & Johnson, which manufactured and marketed opioids, \$525 million in funds have been secured for prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery programs throughout Massachusetts.

As part of the resolution, municipalities across the country were eligible to sign-on to receive settlement funds to abate the crisis in their communities. Locally, Brimfield is expected to receive \$74,777; Holland is expected to receive \$50,050; Palmer is expected to receive \$340,988; Sturbridge is expected to receive \$259,813; Wales is expected to receive \$31,035; Ware is expected to receive \$427,999; and Warren is expected to receive \$37,700; All of funds will go toward abatement resources for communities and families to address the devastating impact of the opioid crisis throughout the state.

“The opioid epidemic has impacted every community in America,” said Representative Smola. “These resources will help our local towns in delivering prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery.”

Under the terms of the settlements, more than \$525 million will be coming into Massachusetts over the next 18 years starting this spring. Of that, more than \$210 million will be distributed directly to Massachusetts municipalities, and more than \$310 million will go into the statewide Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund to ensure that funds are spent on harm reduction, treatment, and prevention.

These settlements are the result of an investigation that found that three major opioid distributors shipped thousands of suspicious orders without regard for their legitimacy, and that Johnson & Johnson misled patients and doctors about their addictive nature. The first two annual payments due under the settlements are expected to flow into the state this spring and summer. From 2023 through 2038, the payments are expected annually, in July. For additional information please contact Representative Smola at Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov or (617)722-2100.

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