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August 21, 2019

Stephen Boyd
Assistant Attorney General
Office of Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Room 1145
Washington, DC 20530

RE: In Support of Stanislaus County's application to the BJA FY19 Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Site-based Program.

Dear Mr. Boyd,

I am writing to express my support for Stanislaus County's application to the BJA Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Site-based Program (COAP). My district in California's Central Valley has experienced a sharp increase in opioid-related incidents, with over half a million opioids prescribed to Stanislaus County in 2017. In one year alone, there have been 36 opioid related deaths, 203 Emergency Department visits, and 98 hospitalizations all related to opioid overdoses, according to the California Opioid Overdose Surveillance Dashboard. This is an epidemic that is directly affecting our community; the American Psychiatric Association National Poll found that 1 in 3 Stanislaus County residents say they know someone addicted to opioids.

The Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Site-based Program will enable Stanislaus County to provide support and services delivered in a comprehensive and collaborative manner to decrease the rate of opioid abuse and lower the number of overdose fatalities in Stanislaus County. The county is requesting \$1,200,000 in funding to support Law Enforcement agencies in identifying individuals in need of substance abuse treatment services. The project will connect individuals with wrap-around services, including behavioral health treatment, peer recovery, and transitional or recovery housing as part of a comprehensive response strategy.

The funds from COAP will directly benefit a federally designated Qualified Opportunity Zone that has been disproportionately impacted by the opioid epidemic. Currently, Stanislaus County does not have a COAP-funded site. Participation in this program will have a direct and

meaningful impact on our community at a time when resources for opioid abuse services are urgently needed.

I fully support Stanislaus County's application for the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Site-based Program. Your full and fair consideration of this application is greatly appreciated. If I can provide any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


Representative Josh Harder
Member of Congress
10th District, California