



Boozman Bulletin: Help Remove Opioids from Circulation

Since 2010, citizens across our state have participated in Arkansas Take Back to get expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs out of their homes. This program was launched because families and individuals continue to experience the serious consequences brought on by the escalating opioid epidemic.

On average, 115 Americans die each day from opioid overdose and 40 percent of all opioid overdose deaths involve a prescription opioid. Our state ranks second in the nation for over-prescribing opioid medications.

Arkansas Take Back events help to break the cycle of addiction in our communities. These events have produced the return of almost 160 tons of unneeded medications, which amounts to more than 442 million pills. This campaign is clearly succeeding at getting unnecessary prescription drugs out of circulation.

I encourage you, your neighbors, friends and family to participate in Arkansas Take Back on Saturday, April 27. More than 250 collection sites across the state will take old and unneeded prescription drugs. [Find a site close to you.](#)

Since 2017, the Arkansas Naloxone Project has trained thousands of first responders to administer naloxone, a drug that can be used to block the effects of opioids and prevent deaths from opioid overdose. This effort alone has saved 234 lives. Thanks to a [free mobile app called nARcansas](#), we'll all have access to information to help us administer this life-saving tool.





Saturday April 27th Day

Quick Takes:

- **Reviewing Implementation of Veterans Health Program:** I've heard from veterans and community care providers in Arkansas that they don't know what to expect or what will change when the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) implements the MISSION Act in June. Earlier this month [I pressed VA officials about their outreach efforts](#) and the need to push out this information. It's critical that our veterans and providers know what is coming in order to prevent any lapses in treatment or care, so I will continue working to ensure the VA makes this transition as seamless as possible.
- **Improving Education Benefits for our National Guard & Reserve:** I joined efforts to introduce a [legislative solution](#) that will improve how members of the National Guard and Reserve can use the education benefits they earned in service to our nation. This update provides parity with active duty service members.
- **Encouraging Civic Involvement:** The second year of the [Congressional Youth Cabinet](#) recently concluded. I was pleased to hear the ideas of participants for legislation regarding workforce development, the opioid epidemic and trade and tariffs. The Congressional Youth Cabinet is a nonpartisan initiative that has allowed young people first-hand experience to engage in the democratic process. My goal is that this program will foster a lifetime commitment to civic engagement and public service. I congratulate all student participants for their efforts.
- **Pulling the Plug on Robocalls and Scammers:** I cosponsored legislation to [combat annoying, illegal and abusive robocalls](#). The *Telephone Robocall Abuse Criminal Enforcement and Deterrence (TRACED) Act* is a bipartisan bill that seeks to mobilize the federal government to more aggressively prevent these calls and punish the culprits. State leaders have also acted to prevent citizens from the harassing and deceitful calls.
- **Committing to NATO:** The world has changed considerably since the founding of NATO 70 years ago, but the [commitment of the United States and our Trans-Atlantic allies to stand by each other in our hours of need remains steadfast](#). NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg recently addressed a Joint Session of Congress and discussed where we have been and where we are going as an alliance of nations devoted to countering aggression through collective deterrence.
- **Connect on Social Media:** Stay up to date with what I'm doing for Arkansans via social media. You can find me on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).



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