

# “There’s nobody better to do this than Chris Christie. He’s given a lot of people hope in the state.”

Friday, March 31, 2017 Tags: [Other](#)



Stay Connected with Social Media

Stay Connected with Email Alerts

LIKE THIS PAGE? SHARE IT WITH YOUR FRIENDS.

SHARE [f](#) [t](#) [e](#) ...

## Trump's opioid addiction commission lauded by relatives of overdose victims

Elizabeth Llorente

Fox News

Perhaps more than anyone, they felt hope and relief over the news this week that President Donald Trump had established an opioid addiction commission that is tasked with looking at ways to respond to an epidemic that claims some 90 deaths each day in the United States.

They are the loved ones of people who became addicted – typically through a painkiller first prescribed by a doctor following an injury or another physical condition – and died of an overdose.

And they expressed faith that with New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie as its appointed chairman, the commission will make a difference.

“It’s outstanding that they’re doing this,” said David Delmonaco, a New Jersey resident whose son, Robert, died after battling addiction that first began through prescription painkillers. “There’s nobody better to do this than Chris Christie. He’s given a lot of people hope in the state. He’s the only guy who has taken this by the horns, he’s taking charge.”

...

“I was on my last breath until Chris Christie,” Delmonaco said.

Beecher is one of a record 31 doctors who New Jersey authorities sanctioned in the past 12 months, saying they overprescribed painkillers and other narcotics.

New Jersey has pursued criminal charges against some, and imposed sanctions including suspension and taking away the license to practice. The crackdown on unscrupulous doctors is part of a concerted effort in New Jersey to fight the opioid epidemic on multiple fronts – law enforcement, medical and a preventive educational campaign.

...

He said Christie has the perfect mix of what it takes to have a successful commission.

“He’s got the drive and determination of a very successful prosecutor, but the heart of an advocate” on the issue of addiction, Kinsman said. “If we don’t handle this problem this way on national level, we’re setting these people up for failure.”

...

At a White House meeting Wednesday to discuss the commission, Trump said it was time to put the opioid scourge on the national stage.

The meeting included members of his Cabinet, law enforcement chiefs, recovering addicts and advocates. Trump listened intently as Vanessa Vitolo and AJ Solomon, two recovering addicts from New Jersey, described their harrowing battles with substance abuse. Both became hooked on prescription pain killers, and quickly transitioned to heroin.

"We want to help those who have become so badly addicted. Drug abuse has become a crippling problem throughout the United States," said Trump, citing statistics that show drug overdose is now the leading cause of accidental death in the country. "This is a total epidemic and I think it's probably, almost un-talked about compared to the severity that we're witnessing."

Full article [HERE](#).

###

**Press Contact:**

Brian Murray  
609-777-2600



[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy Notice](#) | [Legal Statement & Disclaimers](#) | [Accessibility Statement](#) | 

Statewide: [NJ Home](#) | [Services A to Z](#) | [Departments/Agencies](#) | [FAQs](#)  
Office of the Governor: [Home](#) | [Newsroom](#) | [Media](#) | [Administration](#) | [NJ's Priorities](#) | [Contact Us](#)

Copyright © State of New Jersey, 1996-2017  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 001  
Trenton, NJ 08625  
609-292-6000