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**Jamie McLeod-Skinner Statement on Opioid Legislation**

***Applauds bipartisan effort, calls for more action to combat national epidemic***

Bend, Ore.—In response to the opioid legislation signed today by President Trump, Jamie McLeod-Skinner, Democratic candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives in Oregon’s 2nd Congressional District, issues the following statement praising the bipartisan progress that Congress has made in response to this national epidemic, while pointing out that mental health and addiction experts—as well as the very members of Congress who worked on the bill—say it is not enough to impact the crisis.

“What this bill does, in the name of getting something signed in time for photo ops for this midterm election, is address a collection of second-tier issues. It does not address the fundamentals that are needed to truly impact the opioids epidemic,” McLeod-Skinner said. “Moreover, it does not guarantee the long-term funding that this crisis requires.”

“The monies appropriated in this bill are not guaranteed beyond this year. What is required to truly end this epidemic is comprehensive policy and funding modeled after Congressional response to the HIV/AIDS crisis,” McLeod-Skinner said. “Congress needs to address the significant long-term, funding gap we have in providing local communities the resources they need to expand their ability to treat this addiction, and its associated physical and mental health issues. Sadly, this epidemic will be a multi-year battle and we need to show providers in our states that they have the full support of Congress for the long haul.”

“In the past 20 years, 4,500 Oregonians have died from an overdose on opioids, and today three die every week, while many more develop opioid use disorder. Just this past June, Rep. Walden voted against an amendment to provide long-term funding to states so that they could invest in locally designed prevention, treatment, and recovery solutions,” said McLeod-Skinner. “As the chair of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which oversees the healthcare industry, Greg Walden has accepted \$531,000 from pharmaceutical companies just in this election cycle alone, and over \$1.2 million in contributions from pharmaceutical and health products companies, including opioid manufacturers, over the course of his career. Greg Walden’s actions don’t match his words. Oregonians deserve to have a representative who works for them, not special interests.”

“Sen. Rob Portman of Ohio, who worked very hard to get this bill passed, himself said this legislation is long overdue and only offers a ‘glimmer of hope,’” she said. “Given that 140 Americans die every day as a result of this heartbreaking epidemic, we need to do more.”