



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**STATE SEN. MILLS JOINS FORCES WITH STATE AG LANDRY
TO CONTINUE FIGHT AGAINST OPIOID ABUSE**

BATON ROUGE, LA - Upon adjournment of the 2018 Regular Legislative Session - Attorney General Jeff Landry and State Senator Fred Mills applauded the passage of measures aimed at saving Louisiana residents from opioid abuse, misuse, and overdose.

"Louisiana has more prescriptions than people, and we are in a great battle against the opioid epidemic," explained General Landry. "The creation of these laws, along with the efforts of our public and private partnerships, will go a long way to ending the crisis."

"I applaud Senator Mills and the Legislature for recognizing the importance of fighting the opioid epidemic and for passing these measures," said General Landry. "My office and I will continue to do all we can to get these potent drugs out of the wrong hands and help families struggling with addiction."

"My approach this session was to find as many tools to put in the toolbox to fight the opioid epidemic as possible," said State Senator Fred Mills. "We know that more than 70% of opioids enter the community as very dangerous objects of abuse through easy access to legal prescriptions filled by friends and family. There is no one single effort that can stop this, so I worked with General Landry and scoured other state laws to come up with a package of bills that would give people in Louisiana the legal authority to take these dangerous drugs out of circulation. Whether it is allowing a hospice nurse to dispose of them, encouraging law enforcement to receive them, allowing a patient to refuse them, or authorizing a pharmacist to fill fewer of them, the end goal is to save a life."

The recently passed bills are:

SB 26 (Act 23) is the state authorization of federal law needed to allow a hospice nurse to lawfully possess and dispose of opioids upon the death of the "ultimate user" hospice patient.

SB 90 (Act 28) establishes a voluntary non-opioid directive form that allows a patient and his physician to reduce to writing a directive that the patient does not want opioids prescribed for his care.

SB 134 (Act 32) is the state authorization of federal law to allow patients to request and pharmacists to dispense only partial fills of all Schedule II drug prescriptions.

SCR 98 is an awareness expression of the legislature to encourage law enforcement agencies across the state to take advantage of the Attorney General Landry's Drug Take Back Box Program. This program places free receptacles for the safe disposal of opioids into local law enforcement agency offices.

For locations of the drug take back boxes or more information on the opioid epidemic, please visit www.endtheepidemicla.org.

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