



Rep. Tom Emmer on Emmer Speaks on the Opioid Epidemic

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****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address a national epidemic, opiate addiction and abuse. Addiction is a disease that does not discriminate based on age, education or wealth, and it even happens in small-town Minnesota. Recently, I learned first-hand that addiction knows no bounds. Unfortunately, like too many people today, I've seen the danger and devastation caused by addiction up close and personal. I come from a small town in Minnesota, population of approximately 5,000 people. We pretty much know everybody. I've had the great fortune to raise seven kids in this great little town, and as a youth hockey coach for almost 20 years, I've had the opportunity to work with and get to know many of the kids in our community, kids that have big hopes and dreams. Unfortunately, because of the opiate and heroin crisis in this country, two of them left us way too soon. Today, nearly one person dies every 12 minutes of a drug overdose. This must stop. It's going to take more than government policy to fight this epidemic, but I am so grateful for the efforts here in Washington on both sides of the aisle to take on this epidemic, and I just want to thank my colleagues for all their work on this important issue. I yield back.

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