



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Portsmouth Police Commissioner, Joseph Plaia, Endorses Terence O'Rourke for Congress

Portsmouth, N.H. - As a parent, a member of the Portsmouth Police Commission, and a former law enforcement officer in the U.S. Marines, properly dealing with the opioid crisis is first, and foremost, in my mind. Terence O'Rourke is the only candidate running for Congress in the First District who has the strategic vision and a comprehensive plan to protect our great Nation and our families. Terence, a former federal and county prosecutor, understands that some doctors overprescribe opioids and should be prosecuted if they unnecessarily make patients into opioid addicts. Further, he is the only candidate that makes the link between our opioid crisis and Afghanistan, which produces 90 percent of the world's opium and fuels the illicit opioid trade throughout the world. This linkage, absent from our political discussion for years, shows that he views the opioid crisis in the right context: a problem that could be solved at the source of the drugs.

Over-prescription of opioids by doctors and over-production of opium by Afghan farmers has led to our citizens getting hooked on prescription opioid pills and then turning to drug dealers on the street, who sell heroin that is cheaper than a pack of cigarettes due to the large and profitable opium crops in Afghanistan. Terence O'Rourke will lead the charge to make sure that doctors face severe penalties for overprescribing and Afghans no longer find opium farming profitable (which also de-incentivizes East Asian drug traffickers from manufacturing synthetic opioids, *e.g.*, fentanyl, and adding them into their opioid products).

I have known Terence for nearly a decade and he is the type of visionary and results-oriented leader we need in Congress. He is a wonderful father and the hardest working, most dedicated public servant I have ever met. As such, I am endorsing my friend, my colleague, and my fellow veteran, Terence O'Rourke, for Congress.

Joseph "Joe" Plaia
Portsmouth Police Commissioner