***Letter to Bipartisan Congressional Leadership Comes In Response to a Rise in Drug Overdoses During COVID-19***

***July 17, 2020***

Following reports suggesting that the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the opioid crisis, Senators Baldwin and Shaheen led 17 of their Senate colleagues in urging House and Senate leadership to increase the federal investment for state, local, and tribal governments and treatment providers who are leading the nation’s response to the ongoing opioid and substance use epidemic.

Senator Baldwin, along with U.S. Senators Maggie Hassan and Jeanne Shaheen, and Congressman Chris Pappas, joined by U.S. Representative Annie Kuster, called for additional funding for substance use disorder services in the next COVID-19 relief package as recent preliminary data suggests an increase in overdose deaths.

The Senators have called on Senate leadership to provide increased investments in mental and behavioral health, including for substance use disorder, in future COVID-19 response legislation.