



**SENATOR JEFF GORDON**  
THIRTY-FIFTH SENATE DISTRICT

CAPITOL: (860) 240-8800  
TOLL FREE: (800) 842-1421  
E-MAIL: [Jeffrey.Gordon@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Jeffrey.Gordon@cga.ct.gov)  
WEB: [SenatorGordon.com](http://SenatorGordon.com)

**State of Connecticut**  
**SENATE**

**REPUBLICAN WHIP**

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**MEMBER**  
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY COMMITTEE

February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Dear colleagues,

I am providing to you an update about legislation that would expand the scope and number of opioid prevention centers in Connecticut (Senate Bill 151). The Public Health Committee has taken up this issue. It has done so in prior years, but the legislation did not get passed during prior legislative sessions.

The expanded scope of opioid prevention centers that is proposed is to allow people to go to these locations and actively use illegal drugs on the premises under medical supervision. This raises serious legal and public safety concerns.

As a medical doctor and as a State Senator, I remain fully committed to confronting the opioid crisis through meaningful, legal, and safe prevention programs, expanded treatment access, and strong recovery support systems. No one item can solve this problem. And there is no magic fix. It takes a multi-disciplinary approach over time. Data has shown that these concerted, longitudinal efforts have helped decrease opioid deaths. More needs to be done.

But efforts to do so should be done within a legal framework and keeping in mind legitimate public safety concerns in our communities. This is common sense. During prior years' debates on this issue, it was discussed, and highlighted by the testimony of the state Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, that federal law does not allow opioid prevention centers to have people use illegal drugs at such facilities. This has been a position that spans several administrations. Although some people argue that federal law may not be crystal clear on the issue, courts have not uniformly stated it is allowed and the U.S. Supreme Court has not adjudicated the issue.

Furthermore, if Connecticut were to proceed any way, then it would jeopardize millions of dollars in federal funding.

Let me know your concerns and questions.

My best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey Gordon, MD". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "G".

Jeff Gordon  
State Senator, 35th District