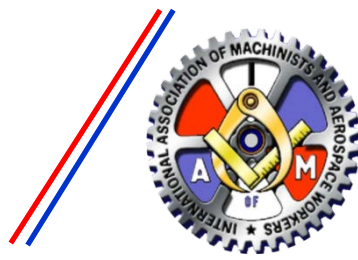


International  
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**Statement by Machinists Union President Bob Martinez, and Sal Rosselli,  
President, National Union of Healthcare Workers, on President Trump  
Declaring the Opioid Crisis a Public Health Emergency**

**Oct. 26, 2017, Washington, D.C.** -- Declaring the opioid crisis a public health emergency is a step in the right direction – but a very, very small step. Public health emergencies are for 90-day periods. Overcoming opioid addiction takes time; it is not like flicking a light switch.

The Trump Administration needs to acknowledge that this is a mental health issue and immediately direct additional resources and support to mental health care services. Perhaps, this can now be possible with a new Secretary of Health and Human Services. When he was in Congress, former HHS Secretary Tom Price was a fierce opponent of the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act.

Recently, representatives from our two unions were on Capitol Hill discussing with members of Congress, the best ways to treat opioid addiction. There seemed to be a broad consensus that bold action was required — not half steps. Only through beefed-up mental health care services and a move toward mental health care parity will we beat this addiction crisis.

The Machinists Union and the NUHW salute frontline health care workers who deal with the opioid crisis every day. Our partnership stands ready to take on this challenge that deeply affects working families.

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*The International Associations of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) is among the largest industrial trade unions in North America, representing nearly 600,000 active and retired members at VA hospitals and in the aerospace, transportation, manufacturing, shipbuilding, woodworking and other industries.*

*The National Union of Healthcare Workers (NUHW) is a democratic, member-led union that represents healthcare workers, including 4000 psychologists and other licensed mental health clinicians.*