

**Statement of Senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.),
Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee,
Executive Business Meeting
January 28, 2016**

Yesterday, we had a constructive hearing about the opioid and heroin abuse crisis. I was encouraged by the bipartisan agreement that we need to attack this problem in a comprehensive way – and that we need to provide Federal funding to support those efforts. I thank the chairman for agreeing to list the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act on the agenda, and hope that we can report it to the full Senate as quickly as possible.

I am glad we are voting today on three district court nominees, including two from Pennsylvania. However, I had expected to see listed on today's agenda the two other Pennsylvania nominees who have received a hearing. Both of these nominees have the strong bipartisan support of their home state Senators.

Mr. Chairman, last week you said members needed time to review these nominees' responses to follow up Questions for the Record. These responses were submitted to the Committee last Monday.

When do you expect the Committee will be ready to consider these other two Pennsylvania nominees?

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