

# National Black Church Initiative

P.O. Box 65177  
Washington DC 20035  
[202-744-0184](tel:202-744-0184)  
[dbc2002@gmail.com](mailto:dbc2002@gmail.com)  
[www.naltblackchurch.com](http://www.naltblackchurch.com)

Contact:  
Rev. Anthony Evans  
202-744-0184

October 26, 2017  
**For Immediate Release**

## The National Black Church Initiative Commends President Trump For Declaring The Opioid Addiction As A Public Health Emergency

*This is the right move for now*

**Washington DC** – The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI) a faith-based coalition of 34,000 churches comprised of 15 denominations and 15.7 million African Americans, applauds President Trump for keeping a campaign promise of highlighting the problems around the opioid issue. This comes in light of the 60 Minutes and Washington Post Report on The Opioid Crisis which underscored the depth of the crisis. Imagine if this would have been done under Obama, for the past 8 years, how much better off we would have been as a Nation. Former President Obama completely ignored the crisis for whatever reason, and that is baffling.

The National Black Church Initiative has been engaged in the opioid crisis for the past seven years. On August 7<sup>th</sup>, Rev. Evans authorized the formation of 15,000 churches to fight this disease (*The National Black Church Initiative Authorizes 15,000 Black Churches In Response To The National Emergency On Opioid Overdosing And Calls To Create A National Faith-Based Opioid Task Force*) and our goal has been simple. We want to save those individuals and their families.

Rev. Anthony Evans, President of the National Black Church Initiative says, “In this case we are very proud of the President in his decisive action to make opioid addiction a public national emergency and to provide the technical assistance as well as to prepare the channels for funding of this initiative over the next five years.”

President Donald Trump says, "This epidemic is a national health emergency," he said. "Nobody has seen anything like what is going on now."

He added: "As Americans, we cannot allow this to continue. It is time to liberate our communities from this scourge of drug addiction. Never been this way. We can be the generation that ends the opioid epidemic. We can do it."

Trump, through the Public Health Services Act, directed his acting secretary of health and human services to declare a nationwide health emergency. The order will expand access to telemedicine in rural areas, instruct agencies to curb bureaucratic delays for dispensing grant money and shift some federal grants towards combating the crisis. Senior White House officials told CNN that, "they will follow up this order by working with Congress to fund the Public Health Emergency Fund and to increase federal funding in year-end budget deals currently being negotiated in Congress."

### **About NBCI**

The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI) is a coalition of 34,000 African American and Latino Churches working to eradicate racial disparities in healthcare, technology, education, housing, and the environment. NBCI's mission is to provide critical wellness information to all its members, congregants, Churches and the public. Our methodology is utilizing faith and sound health science.

NBCI's purpose is to partner with major organizations and officials whose main mission is to reduce racial disparities in the variety of areas cited above. NBCI offers faith-based, out-of-the-box and cutting-edge solutions to stubborn economic and social issues. NBCI's programs are governed by credible statistical analysis, science based strategies and techniques, and methods that work. Visit our website at [www.naltBlackChurch.com](http://www.naltBlackChurch.com).

---

<sup>i</sup> <http://www.naltblackchurch.com/pdf/opioid-release.pdf>