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PRESS RELEASE -- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
RAINVILLE RELEASES 21-POINT PLAN TO ADDRESS THE OPIOID CRISIS

Christina Rainville, Independent candidate for Bennington County State's Attorney, today released her 21-Point Plan to address the opioid crisis.

Rainville said that she developed her far-reaching 21 Point-Plan as a result of meeting with community leaders and people affected by addiction, and also by doing extensive research into the causes of the opioid problem across the country, and researching the best practices being developed in other states.

Key points of Rainville's plan include a drug court for Bennington County; reducing the number of legally prescribed opioid pills in the community; providing free and immediate access for Vermont's medical professionals to the criminal conviction database so the provider can see if a patient, for example, has a conviction for selling opioid pills before writing an opioid prescription; and obtaining an inpatient treatment center and recovery housing in Bennington County. The entire plan is available on her websites, ChristinaRainville.com and Rainville for State's Attorney on Facebook.

"These cases are being treated the same way they were treated since the 1950s, and time has proven that those old approaches do not work. In fact, I believe that 11 years of making people take felony convictions for victim-less crimes like opioid addiction has exacerbated the problem by creating a generation of people who are unable to find employment due to their felony convictions even after they recover from their addiction. Thus, these people often have few options other than to return to drugs and drug dealing," Rainville said. "The end result breaks down the fabric of our community, and I intend to change that."

Rainville plans to immediately work to expunge all marijuana convictions that would not be a crime today so these people can return to the employment market. Rainville also plans to develop a program where addicts with victim-less crimes like possession of opioids can "earn" the right to expunge their conviction after a long period of maintained recovery, so that they, too, can return to the labor market. "The State resources for people struggling with addiction should be focused on treatment, rather than locking every addict up in jail and preventing them from ever gaining meaningful employment because of their conviction when they get out," Rainville said.