It is with great regret that I am resigning from the Iowa State Patrol. This is a career that I aspired to from a young age; I enjoyed serving the public, and will miss it greatly. I am thankful for the opportunity I had making a positive difference for people in our communities, the varied assignments in which I was able to participate, and the bond with fellow officers. With that said, at this point, I need to focus on my health and family.

I would like to use this as an opportunity to build awareness about the opioid addiction crisis in the United States. Each year, 28,000 people die of opioid overdoses. I am fortunate not to be one of them. I became addicted to opioids after battling ulcerative colitis for the past 9 years and C-diff for the past 2 years. Opioids are incredibly effective at reducing pain…but are also highly addictive and dangerous. My addiction negatively impacted my family, friends, co-workers and others and I'm taking responsibility for my actions. I am moving forward and want to prevent others from going through my experience. I encourage anyone taking opioids for medical conditions to be aware of their addictive nature and to work your doctors regarding the same. I would also stress the importance of friends, family, and co-workers to lookout for signs of dependence on opioids before it is too late. This is a growing epidemic that can be reduced with education and awareness.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to serve this great state.

Michael Haugen