

SUSPENSION

A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY LEGISLATORS DIXON, MILLS, LORIGO, RATH, HARDWICK, MORTON, LOUGHRAN, SAVAGE, BURKE, MILLER-WILLAMS & GRANT

Re: Urging New York State to Act on Anti-Heroin Legislation

WHEREAS, Erie County is expecting to see well over five hundred people die in Erie County from opioid overdoses in 2016 alone, this number, large in itself, is only a fraction of the people who are impacted by opioid and heroin addiction; and

WHEREAS, action must be taken by the state to address the issue of opioid and heroin addiction to help protect the members of our community affected by this social and medical issue; and

WHEREAS, there have been many different courses of action to combat this epidemic proposed; including, limiting access to opiate based pain reducers by restricting doctor's ability to prescribe them or by requiring that health insurance providers cover rehabilitation treatment options; and

WHEREAS, the problem with opioid abuse and addiction is that it is a complex problem that will probably not be addressed with one catch all solution; however, doing nothing is not an option at this point; and

WHEREAS, leaders of the State Legislature met this week with Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to specifically deal with this crisis and to address the concerns members of both houses of the Legislature have; and

WHEREAS, the time to address the opioid epidemic has already passed, we need our state representatives to act now.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that this honorable body hereby urges the New York State Legislature and Governor Andrew M. Cuomo work to address the opioid crisis impacting the lives of residents across the state before the close of the 2016 Legislative year; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, Senate Majority Leader John Flanagan, the Western New York delegation to the New York State Senate and Assembly, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, and any party deemed necessary and proper.

Fiscal Impact: None