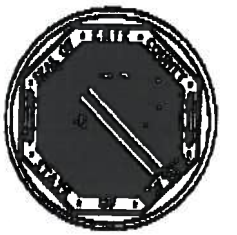
ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

LYNN M. MARINELLI
Erie County Legislator
Representing Tonawanda & Buffalo



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February 10, 2012

Avi and Julie Israel, Founders
Save the Michaels of the World
27 Norwalk Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14216

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Israel:

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me recently regarding your efforts to educate the public and policymakers on the need for a rational system of dispensing controlled substances in New York State.

I was moved by your selfless dedication to the mission of *Save the Michaels of the World,* which you founded in your son's memory. Your loss is beyond the comprehension of anyone who has not lost a child. Yet, you have transformed your personal pain into a campaign to end prescription drug abuse.

These situations are complicated by a health care system marked by outdated technology, poor communication and lack of coordinated efforts in providing pain relief to chronically ill persons without turning patients into opiate addicts.

Your advocacy has effectuated legislation now under consideration by Congress and the New York State Legislature. The package of measures includes, but is not limited to the following: 1) a Doctor's Training Law, 2) a Patient Information Act, 3) an Addiction Transition Law and 4) a Controlled Substance Registry Reform Act and 5) I-STOP (Internet System for Tracking Over-Prescribing Act). This important legislation merits a discussion before the Health and Human Services Committee of the Erie County Legislature.

As a member of the Health & Human Services Committee, I will request that such a discussion take place as our legislative body considers its own response to the scourge of prescription drug addiction in our community.

Your service to "the Michaels of the World" and their families will ensure that the heartbreak you are experiencing will not be repeated. This is a lasting tribute to the life of your beloved son, Michael.

Sincerely,

Lynn M. Marinelli
Erie County Legislator – 3rd District

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