

# SUSPENSION

## **A Resolution Submitted By Legislator Patrick Burke**

### **RE: Supporting an Increase in Drug Rehabilitation Funding In Erie County**

**WHEREAS**, the number of fatalities due to opiate overdose in Erie County has doubled in the past year; and

**WHEREAS**, Erie County is presently only meeting approximately 67% of the overall treatment capacity needed; and

**WHEREAS**, the system capacity and configuration has not changed significantly in many years to accommodate the increase in opiate addiction; and

**WHEREAS**, treatment services offered to opiate addicts costs a fraction of what is spent on the incarceration of the same individuals; and

**WHEREAS**, many drug treatment centers have extensive waiting lists for their rehabilitation programs therefore many people who need their services for acute intoxication are brought to emergency rooms instead of to treatment programs, resulting in overcrowded emergency facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, 50% of opiate dependent patients currently being served in medically managed detoxification programs could be more cost effectively managed by medication assisted treatment in less costly non-hospital based, medically supervised treatment or alternatively, outpatient treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, increased funding for drug rehabilitation in Erie County would act as a necessary counter to the increasing substance abuse issues that Erie County faces, decrease emergency room crowding and contribute to an overall decrease in crime; and

### **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, that this Legislature recognizes the positive social and economic impact that additional funding for drug and alcohol rehabilitation will have on our region; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Health and Human Services Committee make serious considerations of this matter through discussions at its earliest possible convenience, and that the appropriate persons be invited to address the committee; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Clerk of the Legislature forward certified copies of this resolution to the Erie County Executive, the Honorable Mark Poloncarz; the New York State Governor, the Honorable Andrew Cuomo; and all New York State Assembly and Senate Representatives whose district encompasses any portion of Erie County.