A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY LEGISLATORS LOUGHRAN, MILLER-WILLIAMS, GRANT & SAVAGE

RE: Supporting the Office of National Drug Control Policy in the 2018 Budget and Beyond

WHEREAS, President Donald Trump's fiscal 2018 budget proposes cutting about 95% of funding for the Office of National Drug Control Policy, an office created to sustain and complement State and local anti-drug efforts and activities; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, the office received \$388 million in federal funding, but would only receive \$24 million in 2018, essentially stifling the Office's efficacy and ability to effectively support its high-intensity anti-drug trafficking program and its drug-free communities support program; and

WHEREAS, the Office, as typically utilized, has direct influence and impact on the decision making of the President, with the Director directly advising the President regarding changes in the organization, management, budgeting, and personnel of federal agencies that affect U.S. anti-drug efforts and bringing them into compliance with National Drug Control Strategy; and

WHEREAS, Congress has the power to rightfully oppose these cuts proposed by President Trump, and it is doubtful that the newly created White House commission on opioids led by New Jersey Governor Chris Christie would be more effective and has already been labeled as redundant; and

WHEREAS, while President Trump has vowed to address and fight the nation's opioid crisis, his proposed defunding of the nation's top drug control office would amount to devastating those efforts, as it is the only agency responsible for spearheading the government-wide response to drug use; and

WHEREAS, sadly, the Office already appears to have been left behind by the Trump Administration, with the agency's website displaying "Check back soon for more information" in front of a white back drop. The lack of information on the Office from its own website is troubling, and shows an awareness on their part of being in fiscal trouble and rendered inoperable by the current Administration and the incoming budget; and

WHEREAS, in a time of serious drug abuse and overdose, particularly of opioids, now is the worst possible time for funding to be stripped to any anti-drug office or initiative, and it is with proper cause and prudence that this Honorable Body stands behind the Office of National Drug Control Policy and strongly urges funding to be increased rather than decreased in the 2018 budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body firmly supports the initiatives of the Office of National Drug Control Policy and strongly voice its opposition to the stripping of its funding in the 2018 budget; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body continue to support all anti-drug initiatives and advance all plausible efforts to further their cause, especially in regards to the opioid epidemic; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to President Donald Trump, Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy Richard Baum, the Western New York Delegation of the U.S. Congress, and any other party deemed necessary and proper.

FISCAL IMPACT: Positive for the Office of National Drug Control Policy