



STOMP • OUT • STIGMA

MEMO in SUPPORT

S.8991/A.8075C (Harckham/Steck)

Mission for Marcus strongly supports S.8991/A.8075C (Harckham/Steck) which amends the mental hygiene and public health law in relation to the availability of opioid reversal agents approved by the Federal Food and Drug Administration. This legislation would offer New Yorkers' access to all FDA-approved opioid reversal agents, removing the limitations currently in place.

Mission For Marcus is an organization committed to "Stomping Out The Stigma" associated with Substance Use Disorder and underlying Mental Health disease, and dedicated to ending the pain and devastation it brings to families. We lost our son, Marcus, to an accidental overdose due to fentanyl poisoning in 2019 and the availability of opioid reversal agents could have saved his life.

As the Opioid epidemic continues to rage nationally and here in New York State there is no time to waste in doing everything we can to stem the tide of overdose deaths. As I am sure you know, we are losing approximately 20 New Yorkers every day to accidental overdoses. The majority of these are due to fentanyl poisoning. We are losing nearly 5,000 New Yorkers every year. That is why it is essential for the state to update their, Non-Patient Specific Naloxone Standing Orders to include all formulations of FDA-approved opioid reversal agents.

In the state of New York, approximately 1,000 registered Opioid Overdose Prevention Programs {OOPPs} that distribute free overdose reversal medications are currently restricted via the Standing Order to ordering only two naloxone products for their communities. The OOPP Standing Order has not been updated since 2016, while the FDA has approved newer opioid reversal agents to help battle the challenges of fentanyl and other synthetic opioids. New York State should be a leader and make sure all medications that are FDA approved are available to even the most vulnerable New Yorkers.

Once again, I implore you to update NYS's Non-Patient Specific Standing Orders by passing S.8991/A.8075C (Harckham/Steck) and thus ensuring that all FDA approved opioid reversal agents are available. This epidemic, added to the ever-increasing amount of fentanyl on the street, truly makes this a public health crisis. Thank you for any consideration given to this request.

Sincerely,

Mark & Teresa Kaplan
Co-Founders, Mission For Marcus

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