



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Gustavo Rivera

Senator Rivera on Rhode Island's Authorization to Open First Overdose Prevention Center in the Nation

GUSTAVO RIVERA July 9, 2021

| ISSUE: **OPIOID EPIDEMIC, OVERDOSE PREVENTION CENTERS, RHODE ISLAND**

"I applaud Rhode Island Governor Daniel McKee for authorizing the establishment of a 2-year "Harm Reduction Center" pilot program.

It is critical that New York swiftly follows suit by opening our own overdose prevention centers - a public health measure that has been proven to save lives and help those struggling with substance abuse disorders.

This is not the time for half measures. To effectively combat our State's opioid crisis, which continues to wreak havoc in our communities, we need to either pass my bill or continue to push for Governor Cuomo to keep his promise and authorize them through executive action."