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THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



DAVID CARLUCCI
SENATOR, 38TH DISTRICT

Albany Office:
Room 311, LOB
Albany, New York 12247
(518) 455-2991
Fax (518) 426-6737

Rockland Office:
20 South Main Street
New City, NY 10956
(845) 623-3627
Fax (845) 708-7701

Westchester Office:
2 Church Street, Ste 210
Ossining, NY 10562
(914) 941-2041
Fax (914) 941-2054

E-Mail Address:
Carlucci@nysenate.gov

April 22, 2015

Commissioner Howard Zucker MD, JD, LLM
Corning Tower Bldg, Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12237

Dear Commissioner Zucker;

As you know, New York State has suffered drastically from the sweeping heroin epidemic. In 2013 there were 15 thousand more admissions of heroin and prescription opioid abuse treatment in the state than in 2009. In response to the escalating number of overdoses, organizations like the Harm Reduction Coalition have partnered with the New York State Department of Health to provide Naloxone kits and training.

Through the efforts of the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS), and other state agencies, approximately 37,000 people have been trained in Naloxone issuance and more than 1,100 lives have been saved. I have held trainings in my district, and I know first-hand we are saving lives. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, every day, 44 people in the United States die from an overdose of prescription painkillers, and many more become addicted.

I respectfully request that you make Naloxone more readily available by allowing individuals who need this life saving medication to purchase it without a prescription. The issuance of a Standing Order, pursuant to Public Health Law Section 3309, would make Naloxone easily accessible to the public, health professionals, first responders and law enforcement officials.

As the number of overdoses increase, so should the amount of people who have access to Naloxone. By issuing a Standing Order, you will make Naloxone, which has not shown to be a dangerous drug more accessible, and in turn save lives.

On behalf of the residents of New York State who are struggling with opioid addiction, as well as their family and loved ones. I thank you for your attention to this important issue, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Carlucci', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

David Carlucci
New York State Senator, 38th District