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Jan. 27, 2015

Dr. Howard A. Zucker
Acting Commissioner of Health
New York State Department of Health
Corning Tower, Room 2364
Albany, N.Y. 12237-0044

Dear Acting Commissioner Zucker,

I write today to request that you impose a one-year moratorium on the electronic prescription provision in the I-STOP law.

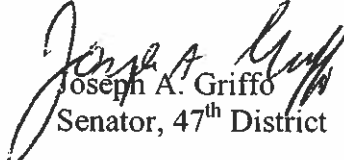
I support our state's goal to reduce "doctor shopping" and eliminate the incidence of overprescribing medicines. However, in talking with health care providers, it's become clear that our state is not ready to implement this provision in an effective manner.

As I understand it, health care providers did not receive timely information from the Department of Health regarding the new requirements, including any exemptions that may exist. They also lacked important information regarding systems that could be used to satisfy the e-prescription requirement, including the costs for purchasing and maintaining those systems. Finally, it is my understanding that no vendors have been authorized by the federal Drug Enforcement Agency to transmit these e-prescriptions in a manner that is timely, efficient and respectful of customer privacy.

While I would prefer the directive to come from your office, I am also sponsoring legislation that would delay the rollout of this specific provision by one year. As I said before: I still believe this law is necessary, but it's imperative that the introduction of this new requirement goes as smoothly as possible.

I urge you to ensure that this is done right by calling for a moratorium before the March 27 deadline.

Sincerely,


Joseph A. Griffo
Senator, 47th District