

THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK



**DAVID CARLUCCI**  
SENATOR, 38TH DISTRICT

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August 3, 2017

The Honorable Eric T. Schneiderman, New York State Attorney General  
Office of the Attorney General  
The Capitol  
Albany, NY 12224-0341

Dear Attorney General Schneiderman,

As you are aware, the State of New York is facing an unprecedented crisis concerning the rising number of drug overdose-related deaths. Specifically, opioid abuse, which is at the pinnacle of prescription drug abuse all over the United States.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), from 2000 to 2015, more than half a million people across the United States have died from drug overdoses - including 91 Americans daily. In New York, the number of drug overdose deaths in 2015 was 2,754, making New York the fifth highest state in the country with opioid overdose related deaths. Statistical evidence shows that drug overdose related death increased by 20.4 percent across the state of New York from 2014 to 2015. This trend further concludes that in New York State the current rate of death for this epidemic is 13.6 per 100,000 people. Furthermore, in my State Senate district, Rockland and portions of Westchester Counties, there were over 140 opioid-related deaths from 2015 to 2016.

New York State must take aggressive legal action to stem this crisis. This year, the states of Ohio and Missouri, have already taken such action by filing lawsuits against opioid manufacturers. A significant body of evidence exists that accuses opioid manufacturers of using deceptive marketing of their brand-name opioids - including Oxycontin and Percocet - to entice people, including young patients, to use highly addictive painkillers. Evidence further shows that these manufacturers have misled doctors on the level of addictiveness of these opioids as well. For example, the Ohio lawsuit accuses pharmaceutical companies of fueling the opioid crisis by misleading doctors about the risks of addiction.

Therefore, I am requesting the New York State Attorney General Office to file a lawsuit against opioid manufacturers to hold them accountable for the role they have played in contributing to this on-going epidemic through their use of deceptive acts and false advertising to mislead doctors and patients on the high level of addictiveness of the opioids they have manufactured.

Thank you in advance for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Carlucci". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

Senator David Carlucci  
38th Senate District