

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK
SENATOR PATRICK M. GALLIVAN
59TH DISTRICT

December 7, 2017

Honorable Andrew Cuomo
Governor
Executive Chamber, New York State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

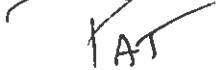
I read with great interest the December 6, 2017 letter sent to you, Assembly Speaker Heastie and Senate Leader Flanagan by Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz regarding a proposed opioid treatment center in Broome County. Despite the state's generous offer to provide \$2.7 million for treatment and one-time startup costs, it appears the Broome County Legislature is not prepared to act on the proposal and has delayed a decision on whether to accept the offer until January 2018 at the earliest. In the meantime, Mr. Poloncarz has expressed interest in pursuing this project in Erie County and I fully endorse his position.

In an effort to advance this project, I suggest the state consider utilizing space inside the Strozzi Building on the campus of the Buffalo Psychiatric Center for a much-needed opioid treatment center to serve Erie County and Western New York. As you know, the facility is currently undergoing extensive renovations as part of a plan to re-locate patients from the Western New York Children's Psychiatric Center (WNYCPC) to the Buffalo Psychiatric Center. I believe it is in the best interest of all parties involved and the Western New York community to allow WNYCPC to remain at its current location in West Seneca and use the available space at the Buffalo Psychiatric Center to establish an opioid treatment center to provide life-saving services and combat the opioid addiction crisis.

As County Executive Poloncarz pointed out, Erie County has taken a proactive approach to dealing with this public health crisis. It has established an Opioid Epidemic Task Force, created partnerships with public, private and not-for-profit agencies to assist individuals and families dealing with addiction and has provided resources for a 24-hour addiction hotline. A dedicated opioid treatment center would reinforce these efforts and better protect residents of Western New York.

I urge you to consider this proposal and I stand ready to work with you, County Executive Poloncarz and others to establish an opioid treatment center in Erie County. Thank you for your continued commitment to this important issue and should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Patrick M. Gallivan
Senator – 59th District

Cc: Hon. John Flanagan
Hon. Carl Heastie
Hon. Mark Poloncarz
Hon. Tony Avella
Hon. Pamela Helming
Hon. Chris Jacobs
Hon. Robert Ort
Hon. Michael Ranzenhofer
Hon. Catharine Young