

THE SENATE  
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June 25, 2018

Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez  
New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services  
1450 Western Avenue  
Albany, NY 12203-3526

Dear Commissioner González-Sánchez,

I am reaching out to express my strong concern about the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services' (OASAS) proposed siting of a methadone clinic in Dunkirk at the corner of Third Street and Park Avenue. Specifically, I am concerned about this location's proximity to the Northern Chautauqua Catholic School and its students, and the risks this could present to those young people. For the benefit of this community, I urge you to choose another location.


More treatment options for addicts are critical – we are in full agreement on this point. The State Senate recently fought for and secured a record \$250 million in the budget to strengthen prevention, treatment, recovery and education services across the state. New Yorkers who are struggling with addiction need access to treatment in order to have any hope of escaping the cycle of abuse and building a better life.

Yet, we cannot remain blind to the fact that the presence of these facilities and the addicted individuals they serve can impact the neighborhood and expose children to troubling and potentially dangerous situations. These centers are often a magnet for drug dealers looking to sell drugs to vulnerable people in recovery as they enter and exit the building. With this element in the neighborhood, crime and drug use can increase. It is our responsibility to protect our children from these risks.

It is my understanding that there were other sites under consideration before this decision was announced. I would encourage OASAS to revisit all location options and choose one at a safe distance from any schools or facilities serving children. In our commitment to combatting one problem, we do not want to create another.

Thank you for your review and consideration and please do not hesitate to contact me for further discussion of this important matter.

Sincerely,

  
Senator Catharine Young  
57<sup>th</sup> Senate District