

Van Smith

7 Joint Senate Task Force on Opioid

Addiction & Overdose Prevention

SENATORS

PETE HARCKHAM,

DAVID CARLUCCI,

GUSTAVO RIVERIA,

I APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE A CURRENT APPROACH AND A NEW STRATEGY FOR HOW NEW YORK RESPONDS TO DRUG USE AND THE EPIDEMIC OF 167 OVERDOSES OR MORE IN 2018. I WOULD BEG YOU TO CONSIDER NEW INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES AND APPROACHES FOR HOW NEW YORK RESPONDS TO DRUG USE AND THE EPIDEMIC OPIOID OVERDOSES AND DEATHS CAUSED EACH YEAR BY THE PROBLEMATIC USE OF DRUGS. AS A KEY STAKEHOLDER, SON, BROTHER, FATHER, AND ADVOCATE FOR ESTABLISHING ETHICAL – STANDARD BASED RECOVERY HOMES IN NEW YORK, I WOULD ASK YOU TO CONSIDER ADOPTING THE EVIDENCE BASED STANDARDS OF NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF RECOVERY RESIDENCES. CURRENTLY THERE ARE OVER 2500 HOMES OPERATING IN 26 STATES WITH OVER 30,000 BEDS FOR MEN AND WOMEN LEAVING TREATMENT AGENCIES. RECOVERY HOUSES OF ROCHESTER, INC. CURRENTLY OPERATES TWO LEVEL 2 RECOVERY RESIDENCES WHICH ARE 5 BEDROOM SINGLE FAMILY HOMES. WE PROVIDE OUR MEMBERS WITH A PLACE TO LIVE AND ASSIST WITH ESTABLISHING HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS UTILIZING MEN AND WOMEN IN RECOVERY AS PEER ADVOCATES. WE WOULD ASK THE SENATE TO CONSIDER \$1.6 BILLION THROUGH COMPETITIVE GRANTS TO ESTABLISH MORE RECOVERY RESIDENCES SO THAT INDIVIDUALS HAVE THIS OPTION TO CONSIDER WHEN LEAVING TREATMENT SO THAT THEY DON'T HAVE TO RETURN TO AN UNSAFE LIVING ENVIRONMENT IF THEY DON'T CHOOSE TO.