



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, drug overdose is a serious public health concern and opioid-related overdose has increased as a public health threat; since 2003, opioid analgesics have been responsible for more unintentional drug overdose deaths in the United States than cocaine and heroin combined, and the number of drug overdose deaths involving opioid analgesics more than tripled between 1999 and 2008; and

Whereas, in New York State, nearly 1,718 fatalities resulting from accidental overdoses were recorded in 2009; close to 70% of these deaths involved the use of opioids, including heroin and prescribed analgesics; and

Whereas, most overdoses are not instantaneous and the majority of them are witnessed by others; many overdose fatalities are preventable, especially if the witnesses have had appropriate training and are prepared to respond in a safe and effective manner; prevention measures include understanding specific risk factors, recognizing the signs of an overdose, and responding appropriately; appropriate responses include contacting emergency medical services, providing rescue breathing, and administering naloxone, an FDA-approved drug which reverses the effects of opioid overdoses; and

Whereas, the NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) oversees one of the largest addiction services systems in the nation, accounting for more than 1,300 programs throughout the state; to help reduce the number of overdoses, OASAS coordinates with other state agencies, including the Department of Health, and in concert with practitioners and concerned citizens on initiatives including the Practitioner Notification Program, Prescription Opioid Addiction Treatment Education and Intervention, Guidelines for Prescribers on Responsible Medication Prescribing, and a number of educational workshops, lectures and other tools to help raise awareness about this public health threat; and

Whereas, New York State has enacted a 911 Good Samaritan Law so that certain witnesses to overdose can safely call help without risk of prosecution; and

Whereas, a life-saving law took effect in New York State in 2006 making it legal for non-medical persons to administer naloxone to another individual to prevent an opioid overdose from becoming fatal; and the Department of Health's Opioid Overdose Prevention Program encourages citizens to become aware and embrace this prevention program, which has reversed more than 550 overdoses since its inception; and

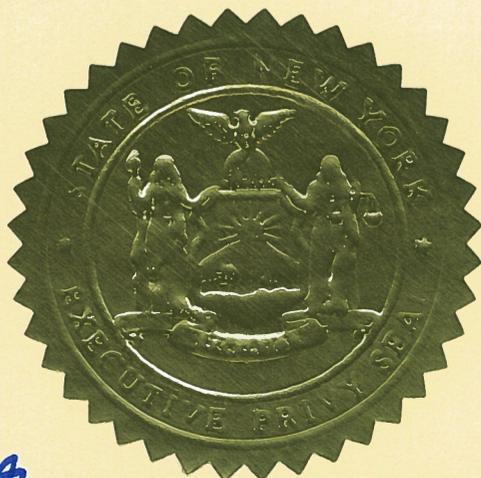
Whereas, New York State enacted legislation on August 27, 2012 to help the state crack down on prescription drug abuse; this new law includes a series of provisions overhauling the way prescription drugs are distributed and tracked in New York State, including an enacting a "real time" prescription monitoring registry to provide timely and enhanced information to practitioners and pharmacists; requiring all prescriptions to be electronically transmitted; and improving safeguards for the distribution of specific prescription drugs that are prone to abuse; and

Whereas, medication drop boxes have been placed at nine New York State Police Troop Headquarters, as well as at local law enforcement locations throughout the state, which will give New Yorkers a secure place to anonymously dispose of unused prescription medications and other controlled substances;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim August 31, 2012 as

OPIOID OVERDOSE PREVENTION DAY

in the Empire State.



G i v e n under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this thirtieth
day of August in the year two thousand twelve.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor