



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Thomas D. Croci

SENATOR CROCI ANNOUNCES SENATE REPUBLICAN MAJORITY BUDGET TO INCLUDE \$167 MILLION FOR OPIOID ABUSE PREVENTION, TREATMENT, RECOVERY AND EDUCATION

THOMAS D. CROCI March 14, 2016

| ISSUE: **OPIOID, HEROIN AND OPIOID ADDICTION, CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES, STATE BUDGET**



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PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Hauppauge, NY – Senator Thomas Croci (R, C, I – Sayville), along with Senate Majority Leader John J. Flanagan and the Joint Senate Task Force on Heroin and Opioid Addiction, announced the Senate will include a total of \$167 million in funding to strengthen prevention, treatment, recovery, and education services as part of its 2016-17 budget proposal. In addition to this significant funding commitment, the budget proposal also includes legislation to prevent the abuse of opioid prescription drugs.

Senator Flanagan said, “New York must dedicate more resources to specifically target the pervasive and deadly effects of our state’s heroin epidemic. Our conference has helped the state take extensive steps to combat heroin and save lives, but the drug’s grip on all communities, large and small, continues to grow. The Senate Republican proposal reinforces our commitment to provide the tools needed to address the wide-ranging issues created by addiction.”

Senator Croci stated, “We cannot deny what is happening to our young people in our communities. Heroin and opioid abuse is an equal-opportunity killer; every community and every family in this state has been touched by this devastating disease. We must dedicate funds to primary prevention and education, increased enforcement on our streets with

enhanced penalties for drug dealers, and for treatment and recovery so that we can begin to beat back this scourge.”

The Senate accepts the Executive Budget proposal of \$141 million and increases it by more than 18 percent. The \$26 million in additional funds proposed includes:

\$10 million for transitional housing for individuals in recovery, with 25 percent of these funds to be used for individuals ages 15-24;

\$6.5 million for additional recovery services;

\$3.85 million for 11 additional Recovery Community Centers. The Executive Budget proposed to expand the number of Recovery Community Centers in the state by six, from the current number of three to a total of nine. The Senate proposal would bring the total to 20, and would require that all centers be distributed on a geographically even basis;

\$2 million for school prevention efforts;

\$2 million for Recovery Coaches;

\$1 million for an additional 10 Family Support Navigators, who will assist New Yorkers and their families with navigating insurance and treatment systems. The Executive Budget proposes 10 Navigators to be regionally distributed statewide and the Senate proposal doubles that commitment to 20, helping to ensure their services would be distributed on a geographically even basis;

\$450,000 for opioid drug addiction, prevention and treatment programs; and

\$200,000 for Family Support Navigator training.

The Senate is also proposing the inclusion of S6962, a bill sponsored by Senator Kemp Hannon (R, Nassau County), in the budget. This bill helps prevent the abuse of opioid prescription drugs by ensuring that FDA-approved abuse-deterrent drugs are dispensed whenever prescribed and are not interchanged or substituted for an opioid prescription drug lacking abuse-deterrent technology. The bill also requires insurance plans to cover abuse-

deterrent opioid prescription drugs at the same level as non-abuse deterrent opioid prescription drugs, prevents insurance plans from requiring a patient take a non-abuse deterrent opioid drug before a drug containing abuse-deterrent technology and ensures that prior authorization requirements are applied equally to both abuse-deterrent and non-abuse-deterrent opioid prescription drugs.

Today's funding recommendation is the latest in the Senate Republicans' legislative efforts to combat the opioid and heroin crisis – first concentrating on the abuse of prescription painkillers, and then following the opioid addiction trend as it turned to heroin. Deaths from heroin overdoses across the nation escalated 175 percent between 2010 and 2014, and these numbers continue to climb.

Since 2014, the Senate's Joint Senate Task Force on Heroin and Opioid Addiction has held forums that solicit input from stakeholders and experts, and use the information collected to develop recommendations for legislative action. Significant legislation has already been enacted as a result of the Task Force's efforts, and more continues to be developed to address the ongoing crisis. Forums have already been held earlier this year in Oneonta, Penn Yan, and Brooklyn, and another forum, hosted by Task Force member Senator Croci, is scheduled for April 7, 2016, in Oakdale in Suffolk County. For more information about the ongoing work of the Senate's Joint Senate Task Force on Heroin and Opioid Addiction, go to: <http://www.nysenate.gov/committees/heroin-task-force>.

All media inquiries should be directed to Senator Croci's Communications Specialist, Christine Geed at (631) 398-8044 (call or text) or via email at geed@nysenate.gov. Inquiries for additional information should be directed to Senator Croci's Press Secretary, Jennifer Romero at (631) 513-5657 or via email at jromero@nysenate.gov.

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2015-S6962

- Introduced
- - In Committee Assembly
 - In Committee Senate
- - On Floor Calendar Assembly
 - On Floor Calendar Senate
- - Passed Assembly
 - Passed Senate
- Vetoed By Governor
- Signed By Governor
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Limits the substitution of abuse-deterrent analgesic opioid drug products for analgesic opioids lacking such technology

March 10, 2016

Vetoed

Sponsored by **Kemp Hannon**

Do you support this bill?

NAY