



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

George Amedore

## SENATE PASSES BILL TO ALLOW MEDICAL MARIJUANA TO BE USED AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO OPIOIDS

GEORGE AMEDORE June 18, 2018

The New York State Senate today passed legislation (S8987A), sponsored by Senator George Amedore (R-C-I, Rotterdam), that would allow the use of medical marijuana for the treatment of substance use disorder or as an alternative to opioids for the treatment of pain.

Under New York State's Compassionate Care Act, which went into effect in January 2016, medical marijuana can be used for the treatment of debilitating diseases, or conditions that cause chronic pain. This bill amends the public health law to allow for the use of medical marijuana to treat substance abuse disorder, or for the treatment of pain as an alternative to opioids.

"As we continue to look for ways to address the heroin and opioid epidemic, a critical piece is ensuring that prescribers and patients have every resource at their disposal," said Senator Amedore, who co-Chairs the Senate's Task Force on Heroin and Opioid Addiction. "This legislation removes barriers and gaps that we heard about over and over as we travelled the state with the Task Force – it will help patients, reduce the number of highly addictive opioids in circulation, and ultimately, it will save lives."

The legislation was sent to the Assembly, where it is sponsored by the Chair of the Health

Committee, Assemblyman Richard Gottfried.

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#### RELATED LEGISLATION

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### 2017-S8987A

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- Introduced
- - In Committee Assembly
  - In Committee Senate
- - On Floor Calendar Assembly
  - On Floor Calendar Senate
- - Passed Assembly
  - Passed Senate
- Delivered to Governor
- Signed By Governor
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Relates to allowing for the use of medical marihuana as an alternative to opioids for pain management and substance use disorder

June 11, 2018

Signed by Governor

Sponsored by **George Amedore**

Do you support this bill?