



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Patrick M. Gallivan

## Senator Gallivan Joins Mercy Flight & ConnectLife in Celebrating New Law

JIM RANNEY July 28, 2022

| ISSUE: **HEALTH AND SAFETY, EMERGENCY SERVICES**



Senator Patrick M. Gallivan joined officials from Mercy Flight and ConnectLife to celebrate a new state law that will allow air ambulance services to carry their own blood products and transfuse injured or ill patients.

This change comes as a result of a bill co-sponsored by Senator Gallivan, Ranking Member of the Senate Standing Committee on Health, that was passed in December 2021 allowing air

ambulance personnel greater opportunity to save lives. It is estimated that one-third of patients need blood during air ambulance transport, but until now were forced to wait until reaching a hospital to receive it.

“This update to our public health law was long overdue. Allowing medical flight crews and EMS providers to transport and administer blood is common sense, and could be the difference between life and death, especially for people living in rural areas far from a hospital,” said Senator Gallivan. “I congratulate Mercy Flight and ConnectLife for their partnership on this important initiative.”

Beginning this summer, Mercy Flight will begin to carry type O whole blood on all air ambulance flights. The blood, supplied by ConnectLife, will be used for patients who have suffered severe blood loss through trauma or illness and require aggressive fluid resuscitation. Specialized equipment will be added to the Mercy Flight helicopters and bases to meet blood storage and temperature requirements. Now more than ever it will be important for the community to donate with ConnectLife to ensure there is blood available for these emergency situations.

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#### RELATED LEGISLATION

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### **2021-S4085A**

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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 the availability of air transport ambulance service providers to store and distribute human blood and blood products and to initiate and administer transfusions of the same

February 02, 2021

Signed by Governor

Sponsored by **Michelle Hinchey**

Do you support this bill?