



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, addiction is a medical condition that should be treated like any other chronic illness, and people should seek assistance for a substance use disorder with the same urgency as they would any other health condition; and

Whereas, prevention, treatment, and recovery are the primary components for addressing substance use disorders, with significant benefits for individuals, families, and communities, including more than 23 million people nationwide living in recovery; and

Whereas, individuals begin their journey of recovery on multiple pathways including: treatment, faith-based resources, criminal justice interventions, and support from individuals, family, mutual assistance groups, and recovery community centers; and

Whereas, recovery is a lifelong process of improved health and wellness and is an intensely personal and unique experience that goes beyond abstinence to include a full re-engagement based on hope, resilience, health and wellness, and reintegration with family, friends, and community; people in recovery work toward achieving healthy lifestyles, both physically and emotionally, and contribute in positive ways to their communities; and

Whereas, September 2016 is the 27th Annual National and New York Recovery Month, and this year's theme "*Join the Voices for Recovery: Our Families, Our Stories, Our Recovery!*" highlights the importance of families, communities, and individuals sharing stories of recovery to encourage others to make a personal connection with the recovery movement; and

Whereas, Recovery Month promotes the societal benefits of prevention, treatment, and recovery for mental and substance use disorders, celebrates people in recovery, lauds the contributions of treatment and service providers, and promotes the positive message that behavioral health is essential to overall health, that prevention works, that treatment is effective, and that recovery is possible; and

Whereas, the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (NYS OASAS) oversees one of the largest addiction services systems in the United States with approximately 1,600 prevention, treatment, and recovery programs, and NYS OASAS treatment programs assist nearly 100,000 people on any given day; and

Whereas, this past June, I was pleased to sign a comprehensive legislative package into law to further combat addiction in New York State, based on recommendations from residents across New York through our statewide Heroin and Opioid Task Force; and

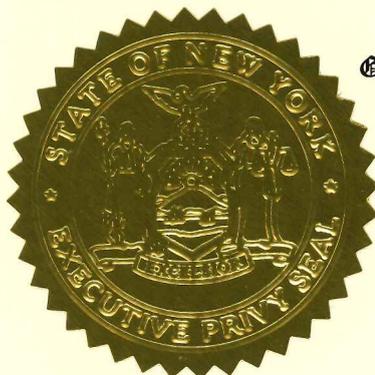
Whereas, the State laws aim to increase the number of New Yorkers living life in recovery by broadening coverage for substance use disorder treatment, improving access to addiction treatment and distributing information about the risks of substance use disorders in pharmacies; requiring ongoing training and education to improve connections to care upon hospital discharges and for physicians and prescribers about addiction and pain management; and limiting opioid prescriptions for acute pain, among other efforts; and

Whereas, NYS OASAS continues to partner with Friends of Recovery-New York (FOR-NY) and the Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Providers of New York State (ASAP) to enlist the hope, help, and promise of all New Yorkers to raise awareness of the chronic disease of addiction, and is also supporting the 2016 New York Recovery Conference and Celebration; individuals and families are encouraged to become involved in the New York State Recovery Movement and recognize its integral role in promoting an increased understanding that long-term recovery from substance use disorders is possible for New Yorkers who are battling addiction;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby recognize September 2016 as

RECOVERY MONTH

in the Empire State.



G i b e n under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
of the Capitol in the City of Albany this thirty-first day
of August in the year two thousand sixteen.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor