

# New York State Association of Chiefs of Police, Inc.

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www.nychiefs.org

Chief Michael W. Lefancheck (Baldwinsville PD), President



Press Release

June 19, 2018

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The opiate problem continues to be a serious public health issue, both nationally and within New York State. The National Institute of Drug Abuse, in its March 2018 report, states that more than 115 people in the United States die after overdosing on opioids every day. With regards to prescription drug abuse, although most people take prescription medications responsibly, an estimated 54 million people (more than 20% of those aged 12 or older) have used such medications for nonmedical reasons at least once in their lifetime. About 80% of people who abuse heroin first misused prescription drugs. The misuse of and addiction to opioids—including [prescription pain relievers](#), [heroin](#), and synthetic opioids such as [fentanyl](#)—is a serious national crisis that affects public health as well as social and economic welfare. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that the total "economic burden" of prescription opioid misuse alone in the United States is \$78.5 billion a year, including the costs of healthcare, lost productivity, addiction treatment, and criminal justice involvement.

With these telling statistics, it is important that we, as a society, take steps to address this problem. One such step that will have a very favorable impact on the opiate problem is a bill working its way through the New York Legislature called the "Drug Take Back Act." This bill amends the New York State Public Health Law, Article 2-B by adding Section 290, which will require the manufacturers of prescription drugs to take back unused prescription drugs. Specifically, the bill will, among other things, "require that a manufacturer of prescription drugs must pay all administrative and operational fees associated with the Drug Take Back Act, including the cost of collecting, transporting, and disposing of covered prescription drugs from pharmacies and other authorized collectors. Manufacturers shall also pay costs incurred by the State in the administration and enforcement of the Drug Take Back Act."

Our police officers are one of the many service organizations on the front line of this battle against the abuse of opioids and see the significant damage these drugs are causing to our communities and families. With the opiate crisis continuing to grow, our police officers need all of the support that is available to successfully address this significant social problem. Removing unused

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prescription drugs from circulation can only have a positive effect on our communities. Consequently, the membership of the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police wholeheartedly supports the enactment of the “Drug Take Back Act” bill and urges the New York Legislature to act quickly to provide us with another method of addressing the opiate epidemic in New York State.