

MEDICAL SOCIETY
of the
STATE OF NEW YORK

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Division of Governmental Affairs
MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

In Senate Health Committee
In Assembly Codes Committee

S. 399-A (RIVERIA)
A. 338-A (ROSENTHAL)

**An act to amend the public health law, in relation
to enacting the safer consumption services act**

This bill would enact the Safer Consumption Services Act. The Medical Society of the State of New York supports this measure.

Opioid abuse has reached epidemic levels in the United States. In New York City, there are currently two Overdose Prevention Centers that are the first publicly recognized sites to open in the United States. The OPCs, are located within existing Syringe Service Programs (SSPs). SSPs are a core part of the spectrum of care for people who use drugs and provide a multitude of essential services, including syringe exchange, HIV and hepatitis C testing, counseling, and connections to social and medical services. The Medical Society of the State of New York has long supported syringe exchanges to assist in reducing the spread of HIV and Hepatitis C.

In 2018, the Medical Society of the State of New York passed the following policy: "The Medical Society of the State of New York supports pilot studies to assess the role of Safe Injection Facilities in New York State as a component of expansion of drug user health programs and that any pilot study includes New York City and two other areas outside of New York City. Such pilot studies on Safe Injection Facilities should include a publicly disclosed report of outcomes and should provide screening, support and referral for treatment of substance use disorders, co-occurring medical and psychiatric conditions, and also provide education on harm reduction strategies including, but not limited to, Naloxone training. (HOD 2018-154; Reaffirmed in lieu of HOD 2020-152)". MSSNY knows that, based on the data from the New York City sites, that 150 overdoses were prevented in the first three months of operation.

Based on the reasons cited above, the Medical Society of the State of New York supports this measure and recommends enactment.

Respectfully submitted,

Division of Governmental Affairs

Pfc/support
5/17/23