

I also attended Senator Murphy's forum on prescription drugs and heroin. Last year in Dutchess County alone, 34 lives were lost to a drug overdose. Senator Murphy outlined his seven point plan to combat this epidemic.

## PRESCRIPTION DRUGS AND HEROIN: What Our Community and Schools Need to Know

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (NIH) REPORTS THAT IN 2011, 4.2 MILLION AMERICANS 12 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER (1.6%) SAID THEY HAD USED HEROIN AT LEAST ONCE DURING THEIR LIFETIME. NIH ESTIMATES THAT APPROXIMATELY 23% OF INDIVIDUALS WHO USE HEROIN BECOME DEPENDENT ON THIS HIGHLY ADDICTIVE DRUG.

REGARDLESS OF SOCIAL STATUS, GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION, AGE OR PERSONAL WEALTH, THE HEROIN EPIDEMIC HAS TOUCHED THE LIVES OF PEOPLE IN EVERY CORNER OF NEW YORK STATE.

IN RESPONSE, THE NEW YORK STATE SENATE CREATED A TASK FORCE IN 2014 TO ADDRESS THE ALARMING RISE OF HEROIN AND OPIOID USE; TASK FORCE MEMBERS TRAVELED MORE THAN 8,000 MILES, SPOKE WITH MORE THAN 200 PANELISTS AND LISTENED TO OVER 50 HOURS OF TESTIMONY.

In step with the Senate Task Force, Senator Terrence Murphy has been proactive in establishing his own Seven Point Plan to take on the issues of heroin law enforcement, treatment and prevention:

1. Sponsor legislation requiring insurance companies to cover drug treatment and rehab up to 90 days.
2. Use drug seizure proceeds to provide funding for NARCAN, a potentially life-saving overdose treatment, to all first responders.
3. To help with prevention, provide state funding for school resource officers (Police SROs) and Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) in all area schools by restoring the Gap Elimination Adjustment school aid cuts.
4. Form a federal-interstate-local joint, inter-agency law enforcement counter-narcotics proliferation task force and remove legal barriers to data sharing.
5. Establish a state grant program for local narcotics units to provide enhanced enforcement against drug distributors.
6. Increase penalties for major narcotics traffickers.
7. Restore funding cuts to the State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) to fund peer recovery advocate, addiction services and treatment programs.

Senator Terrence  
**MURPHY**

