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## MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MAY 2, 2018**

Re: S.2639 (Lanza)A.1043 (Cusick) – An act to amend the public health law, in relation to requiring hospital and emergency room physicians to notify a patient's prescriber that such patient is being treated for a controlled substance overdose.

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The New York Health Plan Association (HPA) supports S.2639/A.1043, which would require hospitals and emergency room physicians to consult the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) registry and to notify the patient's prescriber that such patient is being treated for a controlled substance overdose.

This legislation requires an emergency room or hospital practitioner treating a patient with an opioid overdose to consult the PMP registry and notify the patient's prescriber of the overdose. Without such notification, it is very possible that the prescriber/practitioner would not know that the patient had suffered an overdose of the opioid.

This common sense approach to treatment for overdose, and possible addiction, clearly enhances the effectiveness of the PMP. When healthcare practitioners prescribe controlled substances they need to know if their patient has experienced an overdose, they cannot rely on their patients to share the information for a variety of reasons.

The PMP is a valuable tool in mitigating the abuse and diversion of legally prescribed opiates and other controlled substances from legitimate medical use. A July 1, 2014 report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention highlighted the problem of overprescribing opioids, urging states to identify physicians who may overprescribe opioids by using prescription drug monitoring programs. S.2639/A.1043 would allow physicians to track a patient's past prescriptions and identify those who are abusing them. This language would help to expand the PMP program, ensuring that vital medical information is shared among health care practitioners.

For these reasons, HPA supports S.2639/A.1043.

*The New York Health Plan Association represents 29 managed care health plans that provide comprehensive health care services to more than 8 million New Yorkers.*