

December 6, 2018

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of New York State  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

I am writing to you on behalf of 120,000 members of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). NASW is the largest professional association of social workers in the United States. The association protects the practice of social work and social workers and advocates for sound social policies.


NASW encourages you to sign into law the Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Parity Report Act, A 3694/S 1156. Social workers are one of the primary providers of mental health and substance use treatment. The association and its members are advocating for improved access to treatment when overdoses and suicides in New York and other states are at epidemic levels. Insurers have not achieved parity despite the federal Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act. Prior authorization and review of care continues to be more restrictive for mental health and substance use treatment than for other medical services.

Signing of the Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Parity Report Act would be helpful in reducing the epidemic levels we are currently experiencing in mental health and substance use. It would also hold the insurers accountable for their actions, improve access to care and provider networks, and help save lives.

NASW urges you to sign the legislation at your earliest convenience.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Angelo McClain, PhD, LICSW  
Chief Executive Officer