Heroin and prescription opiates continue to devastate families and communities across New York State. Young people under the age of 25 and their families are particularly impacted.

Last year, New York State prioritized addressing heroin and opiates in both budget and legislation.

This year, Governor Cuomo continues to address this epidemic by increasing funds and access to services. The 2017-18 Executive Budget proposes a $30 million increase from last year’s budget. In order to properly increase and staff these initiatives, NYS PTA recommends a $45.25 million in new funding, $15.25 million over the Executive Budget proposal.

New York State PTA supports the following proposals in the Executive Budget:

• Add at least 80 new residential treatment beds run by not-for-profit providers;
• Open at least 800 additional opioid treatment program slots, including buprenorphine, the medication assisted treatment;
• Fund at least 10 additional regional community coalitions and partnerships;
• Fund another 10 Family Support Navigator programs statewide;
• Increase at least 10 Peer Engagement Programs statewide;
• Fund 8 new adolescent clubhouses;
• Fund 5 new recovery community and outreach centers;
• Open 10 additional 24/7 urgent access centers across the state; and
• Establish 2 recovery high school pilot programs.

New York State PTA supports the following legislation in the Executive Budget:

• Eliminate prior authorization requirements by expanding legislative language to include outpatient substance use disorder treatment;
• Addition of 8 fentanyl analogs to New York State’s controlled substances schedule;
• Increase access to buprenorphine treatment; and
• Eliminate the exemption of emergency department prescribers to consult the Prescription Monitoring Program registry to combat “doctor shopping.”

For more information, please contact Kyle McCauley Belokopitsky, Esq., NYS PTA Executive Director at execdirector@nyspta.org, 518-452-8808