May 4 Day of Action

Sample Email to Legislators

Dear Assembly Member XXX/Senator XXX

I am writing to you as your constituent, a voter, and as a (person in addiction recovery, family member impacted by addiction/loss/ally to the recovery movement). I am writing this letter to advocate on behalf of all those affected by substance use disorder, those who have died of overdoses, and the families who survive their lost loved ones.

New York stands to receive a substantial amount of money from litigation against drug companies, and we absolutely require that you ensure this money doesn’t go into a general fund.

While we, as constituents, understand the strain Covid-19 has put on State and Local governments, we do not believe this warrant dismissing this opportunity to help heal our communities from the ravages of addiction.  This is especially important now as we continue to see increases in overdoses and the need for mental health services due to the pandemic.

Now is not the time to divert these funds.  Now is the time that we should double down on these much-needed lifesaving supports.  We must ensure this money helps those who are affected.

Please, as an elected official, we need your help to ensure any more money received goes towards supporting the community around these issues.

Specifically, as a recovery community we are asking for three things:

1. Settlement Dollars MUST BE PUT INTO A LOCKBOX
2. The Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) should be the state agency that drives the conversation about how the dollars are spent- with serious input from those with lived experience
3. Settlement dollars SHALL NOT be used to SUPPLANT existing funding

Please don't allow for another crime to take place, the misusing of funds which were clearly earned through the pain and suffering of our community.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at XXXif you need any further information or assistance in order to move along this incredibly personal, crucial and timely issue.

Sincerely,