

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

PETER TERCYAK

Dear Friends,

In recent news, incidents of people suffering and dying from heroin overdose and addiction to pain killers have taken front stage. Many view the epidemic as a health crisis, and I agree. Studies show that 3 out of 4 heroin users started with opiate abuse. We must not take the situation lightly. This is why I am reaching out to inform you of my efforts to help end opioid abuse.

Preserving The Hospital of Central CT as a vibrant part of New Britain's community is essential for maintaining jobs and good health. Although the Governor cut hospital funding 3 times, I am proud that each time we responded with a special legislative session restoring hospital funding and money for Human Services.

Please feel free to contact me with any suggestions or concerns you may have regarding state government. Together, we can make a difference.

Thank you for your support,



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OPIOIDS – A HEALTH CRISIS

While we make efforts to increase access to drug treatment programs and to prevent drug overdoses, we must also do more to prevent people from becoming addicted to opioids and heroin in the first place. We want to offer effective evidence-based treatments for addiction.

On a state and federal level, we need to consider mental health and substance abuse treatments the same as we do other chronic and acute illnesses. The goal is to make appropriate treatment options accessible and affordable.

Based on recommendations from Connecticut substance abuse advocates and healthcare professionals, the following are a few bills that I am supporting this year:

- ***An Act Increasing Access to Overdose Reversal Drugs*** – to require municipalities to ensure that the primary emergency response provider, on the scene of an emergency call, is equipped with and prepared to administer the overdose reversing drug Naloxone (brand name Narcan), and has been appropriately trained to do so.
- ***An Act Concerning Prescriptions for and the Dispensing of Opioid Antagonists and Opioid Drugs*** – to permit prescribing practitioners to issue a standing order to pharmacists to permit them to dispense an opioid antagonist in a nasal form to a person without a patient-specific prescription.
- ***An Act Concerning Insurance Coverage for Abuse-Deterrent Opioid Analgesics*** – to require insurance coverage for pain killers that will deter and reduce opioid abuse.

There was a time when people bought Ipecac syrup to induce vomiting in case of accidental poisoning of children. Today, we may need to start thinking of dispensing Narcan over-the-counter and have it readily available as it may windup saving a person's life.

The Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) announced a new toll-free number connecting residents seeking treatment and services for an opioid addiction to local walk-in assessment centers. Residents will now be able to call **1-800-563-4086**, 24 hours a day, to connect them or a loved one to a walk-in assessment center in New Britain.

For more information, please contact:

Dept. of Mental Health and Addiction Services
860-418-6962

United Way CT Infoline
2-1-1

Farrell Treatment Center
860-225-4641

Community Mental Health Affiliates
860-826-1358

Wheeler Clinic
1-888-793-3500

Hartford Dispensary - New Britain Clinic
860-827-3313

Narcotics Anonymous
1-800-627-3543

Aby otrzymać kopię tej broszury w języku polskim,
proszę napisać lub skontaktować się z Peter Tercyak:

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Si deseas una copia de este boletín
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