



New York Society of Addiction Medicine

A Chapter of American Society of Addiction Medicine

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March 5, 2026

The Honorable Nathalia Fernandez
Chair

Senate Committee Alcoholism and Substance Use Disorders
198 State St
Albany, NY 12210

Re: NYSAM's Support for S5779, Requiring Storing Opioid Antagonists with Automated External Defibrillator

Dear Chair Fernandez and Honorable Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the New York Society of Addiction Medicine (NYSAM), the leading medical specialty society representing addiction specialist physicians and other clinicians who specialize in the prevention, treatment, and recovery from addiction, we write today in support S5779. This important legislation would require schools and public libraries to stock opioid antagonists with automated external defibrillators (AED).

Opioid antagonists like naloxone are safe and effective medications that reverse the effects of an opioid overdose.¹ Further, naloxone is easy to use, carry, and store. As a testament to its widespread effectiveness, nasal naloxone spray is now available as an over-the-counter medication.² We believe that an effective overdose prevention strategy for our state would ensure that naloxone is available in as many public spaces as possible. As such, including naloxone with AEDs is an intelligent policy strategy that would save lives at minimal cost.

The increased supply of opioid antagonists like naloxone in communities is a key factor in the nationwide decline of opioid overdose deaths in recent years.³ As such, we are pleased to see New York lawmakers acting in a bipartisan manner to expand their availability. **NYSAM is proud to support S5779 and urges members of the committee to vote for its advancement.**

Thank you for considering our perspective. We are happy to consult should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Marco Barber Grossi, MD
Advocacy, Legislative & Public Policy Chair, New York Society of Addiction Medicine

CC: The Honorable Peter Oberacker
The Honorable Erik Bottcher
The Honorable Pete Harckham
The Honorable Monica R. Martinez

The Honorable Gustavo Rivera
The Honorable Rob Rolison

¹ U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2025). *Lifesaving Naloxone*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/stop-overdose/caring/naloxone.html>

² Office of the Commissioner. (2023). *FDA Approves First Over-the-Counter Naloxone Nasal Spray*. U.S. Food and Drug Administration. <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-approves-first-over-counter-naloxone-nasal-spray>

³ Stobbe, M., & Mulvihill, G. (2025). *US overdose deaths fell 27% last year, the largest one-year decline ever seen*. The Associated Press. <https://www.ap.org/news-highlights/spotlights/2025/us-overdose-deaths-fell-27-last-year-the-largest-one-year-decline-ever-seen/>