

February 15, 2019

Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal
Legislative Office Bldg
Room 627
Albany, NY 12248

Re: Request for Continued Funding: Substance Abuse Prevention and Intervention Specialists

Dear Assemblymember Rosenthal,

First, please accept my sincere thanks for funding Substance Abuse Prevention and Intervention Specialists (SAPIS) for the 2018-2019 school year. It was much appreciated and with opioid abuse crisis still raging in our borough, much needed.

The widespread use of Naloxone has helped decrease opioid-related deaths, but education and counselling is needed to prevent addiction from happening in the first place; it will take the cooperation of many organizations and agencies to effectively address this crisis, and adding even more SAPIS is a desperate necessity.

It is my belief that an across-the-board, K-12 effort is needed – and more SAPIS will be a keystone in achieving this “Manhattan Project” effort.

I understand that many resources are being utilized, but we believe that given the enormity of the problem and the increase in mortality that we could be – and should be – doing so much more to combat addiction disease.

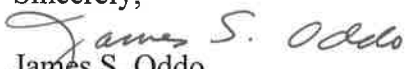
I am not going to quote to you statistics with which you are already familiar; I am not talking about numbers, I am talking about the slow and painful loss of human life, and the attendant grief suffered by the families left behind. It is taking a toll not only on our borough, our city and our state, but on our entire nation.

I am indeed grateful for your past help – but the crisis is deepening, and in order to effect positive change we need to push back harder than ever. SAPIS is at the forefront of that pushback.

So once again I implore you to assist us in our efforts to slow, and eventually eliminate, this deadly blot on our society. I ask you to please make the funds available to dramatically increase the number of SAPIS in our schools.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Sincerely,


James S. Oddo
President, Borough of Staten Island



February 15, 2019

Senator Pete Harckham
188 State Street, Legislative Office Bldg
Room 812
Albany, NY 12247

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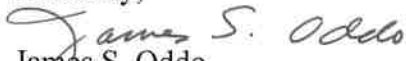
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