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NASSAU COUNTY



May 22, 2014

The Honorable Sheldon Silver
Speaker, New York State Assembly
Legislative Office Building, Room 932
Albany, NY 12248

The Honorable Dean G. Skelos
Majority Leader, New York State Senate
Legislative Office Building, Room 909
Albany, NY 12247

The Honorable Jeffrey D. Klein
Leader, Independent Democratic Conference
Legislative Office Building, Room 304
Albany, NY 12247

Re: S.4652A/A.1359B – An act to amend the general business law, in relation to the sale of over-the-counter methamphetamine precursor drugs

Dear Speaker Silver, Majority Leader Skelos, and IDC Leader Klein:

On behalf of the District Attorneys Association of the State of New York (DAASNY), a voluntary organization comprised of the 62 elected District Attorneys in our State and the Special Narcotics Prosecutor of the City of New York, I write to you in support of S.4652A/A.1359B. This legislation, if passed, would further the vital endeavor of combatting the epidemic of methamphetamine manufacture, sale, and abuse. Its main component is the requirement to monitor over-the-counter sales of methamphetamine precursor drugs – specifically ephedrine or pseudoephedrine – using a real-time, “stop-sale” computer network system. In so requiring, this bill would conform New York State to the enforcement efforts of the federal government and 26 other states.

The United States Department of Justice has noted that states which have enacted monitoring controls on the sale of methamphetamine precursor drugs have seen a dramatic decrease in illegal meth operations. Notably, two such states with a “stop sale” system in place – Pennsylvania and Vermont – are our immediate neighbors. The enhanced control of methamphetamine precursor drugs in these states creates both the possibility and probability that methamphetamine manufacturers, dealers, and agents will now come within our borders to make supply purchases, or worse, set up permanent manufacturing and distribution operations. While we praise our sister states’ successes, our own inaction puts New York in jeopardy.

C/O NASSAU COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
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DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

This risk is easily ameliorated with the passage of S.4652A/A.1359B. It must be noted and stressed that this measure of control comes with no financial liability to the individual retailers; the stop-sale system would be fully funded by the Consumer Healthcare Products Association. Moreover, the tenets of the bill have been tested and found successful elsewhere in the country.

It is imperative that New York move from a lagging state to a leading state in its efforts to address the public safety plague that is illegal methamphetamine manufacture and distribution. For this reason, and the others listed above, DAASNY strongly supports S.4652A/A.1359B and looks forward to seeing this bill enacted into law.

Sincerely,



Kathleen M. Rice
District Attorney, Nassau County
President, DAASNY

cc: Governor Andrew M. Cuomo