

**OPIOID ADDICTION COMMITTEE
AGENDA
THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 2019
2:30 P.M.**

OPIOID ADDICTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Rob Sassi, Chair
Kevin W. Hines, Joel Sierra, Janet Sutherland, Darcie Miller

I. FENTANYL RESOLUTION REINTRODUCED

II. REPORT FROM CHANGING THE ECOSYSTEM COMMITTEE

ORANGE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Committees: Rules, Enactments and Intergovernmental Relations; Public Safety and Emergency Services

Sponsors: Faggione, Amo, Vero, Cheney, Bonelli, Hines, Kulisek, Paduch, Sassi

Co-Sponsors: Benton, Luján, Minuta, O'Donnell, Ruszkiewicz, Sierra, Stegenga, Sutherland, Tuohy, Brescia

 Agenda No. 11

RESOLUTION NO. 330 OF 2018

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATIVE ACTION TO CLASSIFY AS CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES CERTAIN FENTANYL "ANALOGUES" THAT ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR OPIOID OVERDOSE DEATHS

WHEREAS, for nearly a decade, Orange County, New York State, and the rest of the United States have been experiencing an unprecedented epidemic in the abuse of legal and illegal opioid drugs, resulting in, nationwide, the addiction of millions of people and the overdose deaths of hundreds of thousands; and

WHEREAS in Orange County, as of November 27, 2018, 102 people have died this year alone from overdoses of opioid drugs, more deaths than occurred from opioid overdoses in the County in all of 2017; and

WHEREAS fentanyl, a prescription opioid painkiller that is a controlled substance in the State of New York, is responsible for some of those overdose deaths, as are many substances known as fentanyl "analogues," drugs that have been designed to mimic the pharmacological effects of fentanyl, but that are not controlled substances in the State of New York because they are not listed on the appropriate schedules that classify controlled substances in New York State Public Health Law Section 3306; and

WHEREAS, of the one hundred and two (102) opioid-related overdose deaths that have occurred in Orange County so far in 2018, **EIGHTEEN (18) were the result, in part, of the deceased's use of one or more fentanyl analogues that were not controlled substances and, hence, were not illegal when the deceased used them;** and

WHEREAS the ability of law enforcement officers in New York State to investigate and prosecute sellers of deadly opioid drugs is hampered by the gap in the law that results in some fentanyl analogues not being classified as controlled substances because the New York State Legislature has not acted to add those analogues to the appropriate Public Health Law schedules; and

WHEREAS, under federal law, pursuant to 21 CFR Section 1308.11(h)(30)(i), the Administrator of the United States Drug Enforcement Administration has lawfully defined "fentanyl-related substance" to mean any substance related to fentanyl by certain specified chemical modifications; and

WHEREAS, if New York State classified as controlled substances any substances that meet the above federal definition of "fentanyl-related substance," the aforementioned gap in the law with regard to fentanyl analogues would largely be closed, and law enforcement would be able to investigate and prosecute sellers of currently-legal fentanyl analogues that are responsible for many of the overdose deaths;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it hereby

RESOLVED, that We, the Orange County Legislature, do hereby call on the State of New York, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, the New York State Senate, and the New York State Assembly, to amend New York Public Health Law Section 3306 to include as a controlled substance any substance that meets the definition of "fentanyl-related substance," as defined in 21 CFR Section 1308.11(h)(30)(i); and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Orange County Legislature forward a certified copy of this resolution to the Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York; the Speaker of the New York State Assembly; the Majority Leader of the New York State Senate; and all Senators and Assembly Members whose Legislative Districts are in whole or in part in Orange County; Stephen A. Acquario, Esq., Executive Director of New York State Association of Counties and to the Legislative Clerk for each County in New York State so that they may be apprised of this Legislature's action and take appropriate action.

DATED: DECEMBER 20, 2018

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

Ayes 18; Noes 0; Absent 3

(Absent: Bonelli, Anagnostakis, Tautel)

**STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF ORANGE**

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT I, JEAN M. RAMPPEN, Clerk of the County Legislature of said County of Orange, have compared the foregoing copy of resolution with the original resolution now on file in my office and which was passed by the County Legislature of said County of Orange on the 20th day of December, 2018, and that the same is a correct and true transcript of such original resolution and the whole thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the official seal of said County Legislature this 21st day of December, 2018.


Clerk of the County Legislature of the County of Orange