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### **Trump Administration Declares Opioid Crisis A Public Health Emergency**

Albany, NY – New York State Council of Health System Pharmacists supports the public attention drawn to the opioid crisis by the Trump Administration’s declaration of a Public Health Emergency.

As members of the Pharmacy profession, we see the impact of opioid epidemic every day – in communities, hospitals, health-systems – all throughout New York State. The Council supports the expansion of telemedicine initiatives to help treat the medically underserved suffering from mental illness or substance abuse. The Council believes the Administration should work with Congress to pass H.R. 592/S. 109 (Pharmacy and Medically Underserved Areas Enhancement Act), which would allow pharmacists in medically underserved communities to treat those who critically need it.

The Council has helped educate Pharmacists throughout New York State on how to acquire, dispense and administer the opioid reversal agent naloxone. At a time where nearly 100 Americans die each day of an opioid overdose, this life-saving medicine is a critical tool that must be accessible and affordable. In addition, the Council supports expanded access and insurance coverage for medication-assisted treatment, such as with methadone, buprenorphine and naltrexone, to ensure overdoses don’t happen in the first place.

Pharmacies throughout New York State have taken advantage of a recent piece of legislation which makes it easier to set up medication disposal kiosks. Too many New Yorkers have unused controlled substances in their homes, awaiting illicit use, either by themselves, or by a friend or family member; many addicted to heroin and fentanyl started out by abusing prescription opioids. This declaration should serve as a reminder to dispose of unused controlled substances whenever possible.

Founded in 1958, the New York State Council of Health-system Pharmacists is a professional organization of approximately 2000 pharmacists, pharmacy technical personnel, students, industry personnel and other interested in the advancement of pharmacy as an essential component of health care and medication error reduction. NYSCHP is dedicated to promoting good health through public education, fostering safe and rational drug use; encouraging and assisting in the development of quality, comprehensive pharmaceutical services and serving as a catalyst for practice innovation that enables members to better serve the public interest and the profession.