

Papers Across New York State Agree: Opioid Excise Tax Proposal is Bad Medicine Please Reject in Final State Budget

Letter: Patients will pay state opioid tax, **March 16, 2018, Albany Times Union.**
“Individuals with serious illnesses and who are dying will be especially impacted as they may be on high concentrations of opioids and thus pay a higher tax.”- Carla Braveman, President & CEO, Hospice and Palliative Care Association of New York

Opioid tax still a sticking point among legislators, **March 14, 2019. Politico New York.**
“It is unfair to tax those who either need opioids to deal with pain or those who have substance use disorder, a disease to pay into a fund that is necessitated by a crisis started, in part, by the manufacturers.”- Assembly Member Linda Rosenthal

Editorial: As guidelines curb opioid access, chronic pain sufferers can't be forgotten, **March 13, 2019. The Buffalo News.** ...*cutting off the prescription opioid supply from a pain patient who depends on them doesn't make their need for them disappear.*

Patients will feel the pain of Cuomo's opioid tax, **March 13, 2019. New York Daily News.** *When you look at who will bear the brunt of the Cuomo tax, it's clear to us it will be people who absolutely need prescription pain medication and cannot find effective substitutes.*

Who will pay Gov. Andrew Cuomo's opioid tax?, **March 13, 2019. City and State New York.** *Experts question a measure that could burden patients.*

Seatbelts Required in the Back Seat? This and Other Surprises in Cuomo's Budget, **March 7, 2019. The New York Times.** *“The proposed tax is effectively a tax on pain.”*

An inept plan to fight drug addiction, **March 4, 2019. Newsday.** *This time the tax can be passed on to the consumer, making the law more likely to survive a legal challenge but worse for New Yorkers.*

A misguided plan to fight drug addiction, **March 4, 2019. AM New York.** *Increasing costs for all New Yorkers will only make the affordability crisis in health care even worse.*

Biz Groups Push Back on Opioid Tax, **March 4, 2019. State of Politics.** But the business groups, including NFIB, Unshackle Upstate and the Business Council, argue *the tax would only be passed on to consumers and could raise prices as a result.*

Foss: Revamped opioid tax a bad idea, **February 27, 2019. The Daily Gazette.** *Prescription drugs are already expensive, and Cuomo's proposal will only make it worse.*

Concern for Governor Cuomo's Opioid Excise Tax: **Media Snapshot**

Editorial: Tax on pain would be cruel medicine, **February 24, 2019. The Albany Times Union.** *The tax threatens to raise prescription and insurance costs that are already too high.*

When the Cure is Worse Than the Disease, **February 9, 2019. The New York Times.** *"We have less mercy for people who have chronic pain and are on chronic opioids than we do for somebody who's using heroin in the streets right now."*

Support law enforcement in the fight against opioid epidemic, **January 17, 2019. The Long Island Herald.** *A law that increases fees on the distribution of legal opioids won't put an end to these tragic overdoses, nor will it make any progress toward curbing the sale or use of illegal drugs.*

Commentary: To battle opioid epidemic, target the illegal drug market, **December 26, 2018. The Albany Times Union.** *Despite the clear connection between illegal drugs and the opioid death toll, some of our elected officials have neglected to recognize the epidemic-driving nature of the illicit market flooded with deadly substances.*

Go after the illegal drugs and pushers, **December 17, 2018. The Daily Gazette.** *Drugs like heroin and fentanyl are more common than ever, and a response from our government needs to follow and address this trend.*

Another Voice: Chronic pain patients have legitimate need for opioids, **December 3, 2018. The Buffalo News.** *The only real relief from my constant pain is through the use of prescription opioid medications. And I am not alone.*

Letter: New York's new opioid fund is misguided, **November 29, 2018. The Monroe County Post.** *It's simply unfair and immoral to impose this additional worry on people who are already suffering.*

Keep veterans' needs in mind when addressing opioid epidemic, **November 25, 2018. The Daily Gazette.** *Veterans work diligently with healthcare professionals to manage their pain and heal. Oftentimes, these treatments require prescription opioid medications.*

Letter: Taxation won't end the opioid epidemic, **October 23, 2018. The Albany Times Union.** *Rather than taxing our way out of this problem, let's look at ways to prevent the overprescribing of opioids and support law enforcement officials who keep illegal opioids like heroin off the streets.*

Chronic pain requires access to medication, **September 22, 2018. The Albany Times Union.** *Chronic disease patients are not the cause of the opioid epidemic, and we do not deserve to be treated like criminals because of it.*