

Whereas, Data published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicate that drug use is increasing with more Americans dying of overdose than in any point in modern history; and

Whereas, The Office of National Drug Control Policy started spending more money on treatment and prevention in 2021 than on interdiction and law enforcement; and

Whereas, Overdose Prevention Centers (“OPC’s”) operated by OnPoint NYC in New York City has been offering drug users with safe, supervised places to use drugs while also connecting them to services that promote health, including harm reduction, medical attention, mental health therapy, drug treatment, and social supports; and

Whereas, People who use illegal drugs frequently worry that by dialing 911 for an overdose, they will be detained and prosecuted; and

Whereas, Some states have instituted ‘911 Good Samaritan laws’ that provide legal protections for individuals who call for emergency assistance in the event of a drug overdose; and

Whereas, Amending the Len Bias Law, known as the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986 H.R.5484, would empower others, particularly fellow drug users to save the life of a person who has overdosed; and

Whereas, Exploring evidence-based solutions such as treatment, rather than incarceration for addiction to address root causes such as harm reduction will improve lives instead of destroying them; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls on the United States Congress to pass and the President to sign amendments to the Len Bias Law, known as the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986 H.R.5484, to ensure that family members or associate drug users are not criminalized for calling emergency services in a crisis.

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