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What They're Saying About The Bipartisan "Good Samaritan" Act:

Monday, May 06, 2013

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What They're Saying About The Bipartisan "Good Samaritan" Act: "Will Save Lives"; A "Common-Sense, Lifesaving Measure"

The Asbury Park Press: "The Bill, At Its Core, Is About Prioritizing The Saving Of Lives Over Putting People Behind Bars." "It's not often we come straight out of the gate with cheers for a group of politicians, particularly both Democrats and Republicans together, but it is in order for Gov. Chris Christie and state legislators in Trenton. They compromised last week on most of the provisions of the 'Good Samaritan' bill ... The bill, at its core, is about prioritizing the saving of lives over putting people behind bars." (Editorial, "Lives put ahead of prosecutions," Asbury Park Press, 5/3/13)

The Burlington County Times: "The Good Samaritan Overdose Prevention Act Is A Common-Sense, Lifesaving Measure ... It's Going To Save Lives, And Saving Lives Should Always Take Precedence Over Punishment." "Gov. Chris Christie signed the Good Samaritan Overdose Prevention Act into law Thursday...It is the result of a compromise reached between the governor and the Legislature after he conditionally vetoed the original legislation late last year. We applaud them." (Editorial, "Law will save lives," Burlington County Times, 5/3/13)

The Bergen Record: "This Legislation Will Make A Difference In Saving Their Lives." "Drug abuse and addiction is a real disease that too often results in people dying of an overdose. Hopefully 'good Samaritan' legislation signed into law by Governor Christie on Thursday will prevent some of those deaths." (Editorial, "Samaritan safety," The Record, 5/4/13)

The Press of Atlantic City: "The New Bill Is A Good One. Christie And Lawmakers Deserve Praise For Getting It Done." (Editorial, "Helping overdose victims / Trenton whiplash," Press of Atlantic City, 5/3/13)

The Express-Times: "New Jersey's Good Samaritan Overdose Law Will Save Lives." Too many people are dying from overdoses because the people around them refuse to call 911 for fear they will face arrest and prosecution. That's about to change in New Jersey. Last week Gov. Chris Christie signed a good Samaritan drug overdose immunity law. Under the law, those who call 911 to report overdoses will be immune from arrest and prosecution for drug possession. The law also applies to the person overdosing." (Editorial, "New Jersey's good Samaritan overdose law will save lives," The Express-Times, 5/6/13)

Jon Bon Jovi: "Today Is A Great Day...I Hope The Governor's Actions Will Cause Other States To Step Up And Follow In His Footsteps." (Susan K. Livio, "Christie, inspired by victims' parents and Bon Jovi, signs 'Good Samaritan' drug overdose bill," The Star-Ledger, 5/2/13)

New Jersey Drug Policy Alliance State Director Roseanne Scotti: "This is a real triumph of public health policy and we thank Gov. Christie and the Legislature for working so hard to come to an agreement..." (Samantha Henry, "NJ gov signs overdose law, Bon Jovi applauds it," Associated Press, 5/3/13)

Patty Dizenzo, A Blackwood Native Whose Son Died From A Heroin Overdose In 2010: "This new law will save lives, and I am grateful to Governor Christie and the legislature for all their efforts in making it possible." (Max Pizarro, "With Bon Jovi at his side, Christie signs bipartisan drug bill into law," Politicker NJ, 5/3/13)

Senate Majority Leader Loretta Weinberg (D-Bergen): "This measure aligns our laws with our values that saving someone's life is more important than prosecuting either the victim or the person who does the right thing by calling for help." ("Vitale/Codey/Weinberg 'Overdose Prevention Act' Now Law," Press Release, 5/2/13)

Senator Richard J. Codey (D-Essex/Morris): "By removing barriers that could keep someone from either administering a life-saving dose of naloxone or calling 9-1-1 for help, we are providing overdose victims with a second chance." ("Vitale/Codey/Weinberg 'Overdose Prevention Act' Now Law," Press Release, 5/2/13)

Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee Chairman Joseph F. Vitale (D-Middlesex): "We are one step closer to ensuring that no one else needlessly dies because they did not have access to medication or emergency assistance to stop a drug overdose...Hopefully this bill will remove that fear and end their hesitation in

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reaching out for emergency help to save someone's life." ("Vitale/Codey/Weinberg 'Overdose Prevention Act' Now Law," Press Release, 5/2/13)

Assemblyman Daniel Benson (D-Mercer/Middlesex): "This is a sensible and life-saving compromise that many other states have already employed to great effect...By encouraging the wider distribution of naloxone or similarly acting drugs to those at risk of a narcotics overdose we can substantially reduce the number of related overdose deaths." ("Assembly Democrat-Sponsored Measure to Help Save Lives Signed Into Law," Press Release, 5/2/13)

Assemblywoman Connie Wagner (D-Bergen): "It's my hope that this law will not only save lives, but also provide a moment of clarity to help many with substance abuse problems turn their lives around." ("Assembly Democrat-Sponsored Measure to Help Save Lives Signed Into Law," Press Release, 5/2/13)

Assemblyman Thomas Giblin (D-Essex/Passaic): "This law will incorporate a responsible approach to make sure these life-saving drugs or timely medical assistance are given to those who need it most." ("Assembly Democrat-Sponsored Measure to Help Save Lives Signed Into Law," Press Release, 5/2/13)

Assemblyman Angel Fuentes (D-Camden): "This is not about turning a blind eye to drug use, but hopefully saving lives during a potentially fatal overdose...And once they are in the hands of medical professionals, hopefully they will receive the additional help they need to overcome any addictions." ("Assembly Democrat-Sponsored Measure to Help Save Lives Signed Into Law," Press Release, 5/2/13)

Assemblyman Reed Gusciora (D-Mercer/Hunterdon): "A drug overdose can sometimes be the clarion call an addict needs to seek help to overcome their addiction, but only if they survive, that is...This law will help save lives and turn them around." ("Assembly Democrat-Sponsored Measure to Help Save Lives Signed Into Law," Press Release, 5/2/13)

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