



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For More Information, Please Contact:

Sarah Ravenhall, MHA, CHES, Executive Director, NYSACHO

518-527-3547

**LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS RESPOND TO STATE OF THE STATE MESSAGE**

**LAUD GOVERNOR'S PLANS TO FIGHT VAPING, OPIOIDS AND TOBACCO**

**OPPOSE ADULT USE CANNABIS LINKED TO VAPING ILLNESSES AND FATALITIES.**

**Statement from NYSACHO President and Public Health Director in Niagara County,  
Daniel J. Stapleton, MBA:**

“We’re enthusiastic about many of the Governor’s proposals, especially his plans to ban flavored vaping products and fentanyl analogues, and his proposal to crack down harder on those who sell tobacco to underage residents.

“However, we remain gravely concerned about the continued call for legalizing adult use cannabis. The Governor’s proposal for a Cannabis Research Center is a clear indication that we still do not know enough about the impact of cannabis use to safely legalize it. The Governor’s budget briefing book acknowledges this research gap, stating: ‘This emphasis (of the research center) will determine what is safe, what is effective, and what parameters define healthy and safe dosing.’

“Moreover, it’s been established that the recent outbreak of vaping illnesses and fatalities is linked to cannabis/THC use, meaning that legalizing adult use cannabis will only put more New Yorkers at risk of these injuries and illnesses.

“Clearly, there is still far too much that we don’t understand. Therefore, we continue to oppose adult use cannabis.”

###