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A Coordinated Statement Regarding Legalized Cannabis Negotiations from the New York State Association of County Health Officials and New York State Public Health Association

“As the Legislature and the Executive negotiate legalized recreational cannabis, we must caution that a proposal without funding directed to public health programming leaves us far from the finish line.

“Based on experiences in several other states, we know that legalizing cannabis will have a profound impact on public health, and on already stressed local public health resources.

“We are calling on state leaders to see this issue through in a responsible manner. That means dedicating additional state funding to local health departments to ensure they can meet the increase in local service demand that without doubt will follow this policy, and further, to mandate public health leadership at the decision-making table prior to implementation.

“During this time, when we are all experiencing the value of public health in personal and profound ways, the state has an obligation to provide the resources necessary to minimize the harmful public health consequences of enacting such a policy.”

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