

I CELEBRATE RECOVERY !

Dear Governor Pataki...

As a resident of New York State as well as a recovering person and/or family member, I would like to thank you for your Proclamation of September as National Addiction Recovery Month.

As you know, alcoholism and drug dependency are the number one public health problem in America. Together they cost Americans over \$276 billion in health and welfare costs, law enforcement and criminal justice costs, and in costs to business and industry. Each year, hundreds of thousands of Americans find themselves in hospitals, prisons, in mental institutions or in divorce court due to addiction. The toll upon our children is both devastating and long lasting.

As a person in recovery, I also support the following:

We have the right to access treatment equal to all other medical and mental illnesses, and to humane treatment including treatment on demand and access to appropriate levels of care and lengths of stay.

We have the right to live, work and play in an environment free from stigma and prejudice, and one which affords equal opportunities consistent with dignity and respect accorded to all.

We have the right and responsibility to have an active voice in our government, to express our opinions within our political and social systems, and to be heard and taken seriously equal with all citizens.

Finally, as a recovering person we have the right - and the responsibility - to assist others in their struggles to overcome a disease which is destroying them - and we invite our New York State government to assist us with this ethical and moral imperative.

Again, I thank you and look forward to working with New York State to improve the quality of life for all citizens - both those in recovery and those who are otherwise affected.

Sincerely,

(Name/Initials) _____

(City/Village) _____ (State) _____

Please Return to:

Finger Lakes Advocates, 620 W. Washington Street, Geneva, NY 14456, or Fax to (315) 789-0084

