



## NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE

April 13, 2020

Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor  
State of New York  
Executive Chamber  
State Capitol  
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

Thank you, again, for your administration's continued and extraordinary efforts throughout this COVID-19 response.

In particular, thank you for your ongoing leadership in recognizing the essential workers on the front lines throughout our communities who, day in and day out, night after night, are providing truly courageous, heroic, inspiring, selfless, and life-saving service. Their commitment to our common good has been remarkable. The very fact that those workers unable to work remotely are risking their personal health and safety to protect the health and safety of New Yorkers at large deserves and demands our recognition and, more importantly, support.

Recognizing this service in these unprecedented times, then, we appreciate this opportunity to urge you to immediately provide an exemption for essential workers unable to work from home, and unable to take adequate social distancing precautions on the job, from your freeze of their scheduled two-percent salary increase. These include corrections officers, law enforcement officers, nurses and other public hospital staff, and direct caregivers in nursing and group homes, and mental health care facilities.

Of course, this list doesn't cover everyone on the front lines, but we know who they are. It's the least we can do to show our respect for and admiration of their personal sacrifices.

For example, our state corrections officers, without the provision of PPE, are being required to move hundreds of inmates to and from cafeteria, recreation, commissary, and even religious services (services that, by the way, are not allowed to be attended by the public at large in communities throughout New York State at this time). As you know, our correctional facilities are not immune and have been directly infected with COVID-19.

In short, we hope you will agree that New York needs to put actions of support behind our words of support for the state's essential workforce working daily on our behalf.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and thank you again for your own service and the service of your administration throughout this public health crisis.

Sincerely,



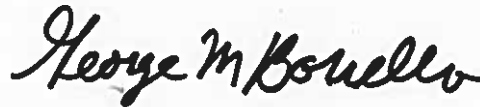
Thomas F. O'Mara  
Senate District 58



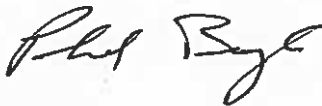
Daphne V. Jordan  
Senate District 43



George A. Amedore, Jr.  
Senate District 46



George M. Borrello  
Senate District 57



Phil Boyle  
Senate District 4



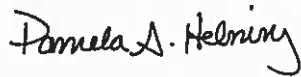
Rich Funke  
Senate District 55



Patrick M. Gallivan  
Senate District 59



Joseph A. Griffo  
Senate District 47



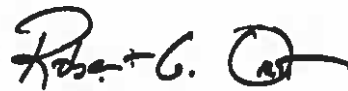
Pamela Helming  
Senate District 54



Chris Jacobs  
Senate District 60



Betty Little  
Senate District 45



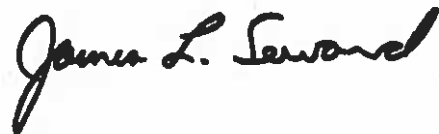
Robert G. Ort  
Senate District 62



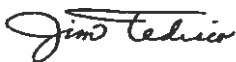
Patty Ritchie  
Senate District 48



Sue Serino  
Senate District 41



James L. Seward  
Senate District 51



James Tedisco  
Senate District 49



Andrew J. Lanza  
Senate District 24

Cc:  
Robert F. Mujica, Budget Director  
Kelly Cummings, Director of State Operations