



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Joseph P. Addabbo Jr.

## OTB Health Insurance for Retirees - Letter to Governor Cuomo

JOSEPH P. ADDABBO JR August 15, 2011

| ISSUE: **LABOR, UNEMPLOYMENT, RACING**

August 10, 2011

Honorable Andrew Cuomo

Governor of New York

Executive Chamber

State Capitol

Albany, NY 12224

**RE: OTB Health Insurance for Retirees  
A5785/Abbate – S4489/Rules**

Dear Governor Cuomo:

I hope this letter finds you well. I would like to take this opportunity to respectfully request your support in approving the measure that would provide health insurance benefits to retirees of the New York City Off-Track Betting Corporation.

Before closure of the New York City Off-Track Betting Corporation on December 7, 2010, retirees were receiving health insurance through the New York City Health Insurance Plan. Additionally, employees had received supplemental benefits such as prescription drug, optical and dental insurance through welfare fund benefit plans funded by employer contributions. Since all these benefits ceased upon

closure, these unfortunate retirees and laid-off workers are facing insurmountable financial obligations to continue COBRA and provide for themselves and their families.

The Legislature worked to create a bill that would address the welfare of former public employees and retirees of the New York City Off-Track Betting Corporation. With the measure passing both houses, I believe the bill should be delivered to your desk and ask for your signature on said bill. These former employees are under severe emotional duress, and their health is being compromised without their prior health benefits. I would be prepared to make additional appropriate budget cuts in spending or seek to further eliminate wasteful allocations in order to absorb the cost of A5725/S4489.

Once again, I respectfully urge your support for this measure and to assist the individuals who, having served prior with the New York City Off-Track Betting Corporation, contributed vast amounts of generated tax dollars to New York State.

If I can be of any assistance to you with regards to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr.

New York State Senator

15<sup>th</sup> District