



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

George M. Borrello

## Senator Borrello Joins Colleagues in Advocating for Outdoor Visits at Nursing Homes

GEORGE M. BORRELLO July 13, 2020

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Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo,

In light of the release of the Department of Health's guidance for nursing home and long-term care facilities, we respectfully request that you consider allowing outdoor visitation with social distancing and safety protocols in place as well as increase the percentage of visitors allowed at one time.

We have received numerous calls and emails from constituents who are distraught because they cannot visit with ailing or dying loved ones in nursing homes, due to COVID-19 restrictions.

In addition, we are receiving reports from care providers that they are seeing signs of negative mental and physical health impacts of this prolonged isolation from their loved ones. Outdoor visitation will give more families the opportunity to safely visit with their loved ones, and it will reduce the bottleneck of visitation requests that will be created by the severe but necessary limits and restrictions on indoor visits. There are widespread reports that residents, especially those with memory and cognitive degeneration, have felt abandoned by their families and friends. To reverse this trend, we must allow outdoor visitation in nursing homes.

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Since the middle of March, many have only been able to speak with their loved ones over the phone or on the other side of a window. People need face-to-face interaction. It is hard enough

State Senator George Borrello joined Assemblymen Giglio and Goodell in advocating for outdoor visits, with social distancing and safety protocols, at nursing homes. A letter from the legislators is attached above.