



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Joseph A. Griffo

## Griffo statement on first installment of State of the State

JOSEPH A. GRIFFO January 11, 2021

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New York State Sen. Joseph Griffo, R-I-C-Rome, released the following statement today regarding the first installment of the Governor's State of the State Address:

"The Governor's words today are a contradiction at best if he does not see that things are worse now than they were in the spring relative to COVID-19. While our state may have been ambushed by the virus last year, we are still in the middle of a dark night. Despite our efforts, the virus continues to launch a deadly assault stronger and more sustained than before. We see this in diminished resources, capacity, medicine, supplies and equipment at the state's hospitals and health care facilities. Case numbers, hospitalization rates and deaths are all worse today than in the spring, businesses continue to struggle and the lifestyles of New Yorkers have been altered significantly.

While I respect and appreciate the efforts of all those who have stepped up to combat this invisible enemy, it is time to reassess and readdress our approach and effort. We must ensure that hospitals have the necessary supplies, added capacity, staff and resources needed to accept patients and treat them now. COVID-19 testing must be expanded and made easier and more affordable. The state's vaccine distribution program is in disarray and the rollout is failing. It must be immediately improved and conducted in accordance with established medical and scientific protocols with no shortcuts due to a lack of supplies. New Yorkers

need to know when they are eligible and where they can go to get the vaccine easily.

There is no halftime in this deadly game, despite what the Governor's book might say, and we cannot afford to let our guard down. We must do better now."

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