



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Thomas F. O'Mara

O'MARA: ENOUGH DOUBLESPEAK, THERE'S PLENTY TO INVESTIGATE ~ Reacts to Cuomo's Feb. 15 news conference statement that 'there's nothing to investigate'

THOMAS F. O'MARA February 15, 2021

| ISSUE: **COMBATING COVID-19 AND PROTECTING NEW YORKERS; PROTECTING NURSING HOME RESIDENTS**

A graphic featuring a profile of an older man with grey hair looking to the left. Overlaid on the image is text in a serif font: "NEW YORK'S NURSING HOMES TRAGEDY:" in a dark banner, and "INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION NOW!" in large, bold, black letters below it. The "NOW!" is underlined.

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Albany, N.Y., February 15—State Senator Tom O'Mara (R,C,I-Big Flats) today rejected Governor Andrew Cuomo's claim that "there's nothing to investigate" surrounding the

COVID-19 tragedy in New York State's nursing homes and long-term care facilities.

Cuomo made the claim at the Capitol this afternoon during a virtual news conference with reporters.

O'Mara, the Ranking Member of the Senate Investigations Committee, said, "I strongly reject Governor Cuomo's latest attempt to steer clear of any investigation of his administration. In fact, this crisis and the ongoing attempt by the governor and his allies to have the final word demands a full investigation by the federal Department of Justice and the state Attorney General. Enough of their endless doublespeak. It is time for independent, trained investigators to be allowed to do their jobs and report the unfiltered truth."

In the weeks following a January 28 report from state Attorney General Letitia James that revealed significant under-reporting by the Cuomo administration on COVID-19-related nursing home deaths, O'Mara and his Senate GOP colleagues have been calling for independent investigations of the governor and top administration officials to compel testimony and obtain all records related to the ongoing crisis.