



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Susan Serino

SERINO PRESSES HEALTH COMMISSIONER ON STEP-DOWN FACILITIES, NURSING HOME VACCINATIONS & INVESTIGATION AT HEALTH HEARING

SUSAN SERINO February 25, 2021

| ISSUE: **BUDGET HEARINGS, CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC; COVID-19; NURSING HOMES, COVID VACCINE**



ALBANY, NY – At a joint Legislative Budget Hearing today on the Executive's Health Budget Proposal, Senator Sue Serino pressed the Health Commissioner for answers on step-down facilities, vaccinations, and a more thorough investigation into the state's handling of the COVID crisis in our nursing homes.

*“The Health Commissioner’s testimony today focused on reforms included in the State Budget proposal, but how can we talk about reform when there has not been a comprehensive review of where the state or others really went wrong?” **Serino asked.** “As committee members, we were limited to only three minutes to ask questions and get answers from the Commissioner in a hearing where a number of other issues related to the health budget also needed to be addressed. That is a far cry from the thorough, independent investigation New Yorkers deserve on this issue of the state’s handling of the COVID crisis in our nursing homes and residential healthcare facilities. When I asked whether the Commissioner would support an independent investigation, the Commissioner seemed to reference the ongoing federal review. While that is a step forward, we will not stop pushing for the real transparency, accountability and effective policy changes that the residents, their loved ones and dedicated staff deserve.”*

Senator Serino is the Ranking Member of the Senate’s Aging Committee.

A clip of the exchange between Senator Serino and the Commissioner can be found by [clicking here](#).

To watch the hearing in full, and read testimony submitted, [click here](#).