

**THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK**



TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY
SENATOR, 63RD DISTRICT

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March 19, 2020

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
New York State Governor
New York State Capitol Building
Executive Chamber
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

Thank you for your decisive and reassuring leadership during the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. As thousands of New Yorkers have already lost their jobs, with more to be expected as this crisis grows, we write to urge you to direct your administration to prioritize the immediate retraining of workers for medically-necessary positions, especially as Certified Nursing Aides (CNA), of which there is already a shortage. This is a vocation that can be trained in roughly one month under normal circumstances. By providing this training on an accelerated timeline, we can ensure that our medical system is properly ramping up as demand for hospital services grows.

According to the New York State Department of Labor, as of 2018 there were 87,729 active certificates for this occupation. While we know that the need for all types of medical professionals will significantly increase in the coming days and weeks, many of these professions require months, if not years, of training. However, CNAs could be trained much more speedily, possibly within a month. By quickly ramping up the number of CNAs available in New York State, we can ensure that, at the very least, New Yorkers who are afflicted with COVID-19 are provided the basic care and comfort they need while they recover. At the same time, this will also help to quickly place out-of-work New Yorkers into a new vocation.

Additionally, in the same vein, we urge you and your administration to explore any and all opportunities to utilize the unemployed workforce of our state to assist in this crisis, whether through training in other medical professions aside from CNAs, the construction of temporary triage hospitals, or the manufacturing of medically-necessary supplies. We agree with your assessment that this is a war against COVID-19, and believe that New York State's most valuable asset, our workforce, should play a major role. In our role as legislators, we stand ready to support you in this regard in any way possible.



Again, we urge you to direct your administration to swiftly develop plans to retrain and utilize our state's workforce who have been negatively impacted by business closures caused by COVID-19, either in medical professions or in a related high-need field. Thank you again for your strong leadership in this time of crisis. Should you have any questions, or if we may be of assistance in any way, we welcome your call.

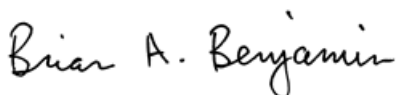
Sincerely,



Timothy M. Kennedy
New York State Senator, 63rd District



Robert Jackson
New York State Senator, 31st District



Brian Benjamin
New York State Senator, 30th District



Kevin Thomas
New York State Senator, 6th District



Brad Hoylman
New York State Senator, 27th District



Jessica Ramos
New York State Senator, 13th District



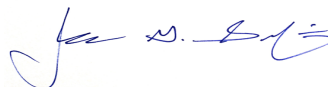
Leroy Comrie
New York State Senator, 14th District



Zellnor Myrie
New York State Senator, 20th District



Rachel May
New York State Senator, 53rd District



James Skoufis
New York State Senator, 39th District



James Gaughran
New York State Senator, 5th District



Alessandra Biaggi
New York State Senator, 34th District



David Carlucci
New York State Senator, 38th District





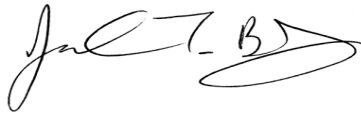
James Sanders
New York State Senator, 10th District



Brian Kavanagh
New York State Senator, 26th District



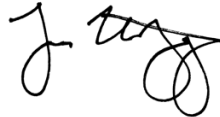
Monica Martinez
New York State Senator, 3rd District



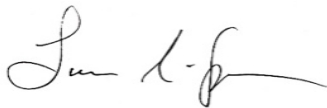
Jamaal Bailey
New York State Senator, 36th District



Gustavo Rivera
New York State Senator, 33rd District



Jen Metzger
New York State Senator, 42nd District



Luis Sepulveda
New York State Senator, 32nd District



Liz Krueger
New York State Senator, 28th District



Julia Salazar
New York State Senator, 18th District



Andrew Gounardes
New York State Senator, 22nd District



Peter Harckham
New York State Senator, 40th District



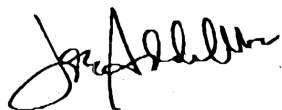
Toby Ann Stavisky
New York State Senator, 16th District



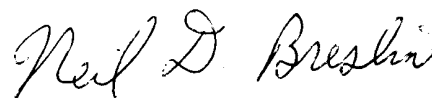
Todd Kaminsky
New York State Senator, 9th District



Velmanette Montgomery
New York State Senator, 25th District



Joseph Addabbo
New York State Senator, 15th District



Neil Breslin
New York State Senator, 44th District