

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
ALCOHOLISM AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE
CRIME VICTIMS, CRIME AND
CORRECTION

COMMITTEES
CODES
LABOR

NEW YORK
STATE
SENATE



SENATOR
FREDERICK J. AKSHAR II
52ND SENATE DISTRICT

PLEASE RESPOND TO:
□ **ALBANY OFFICE:**
ROOM 608
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BLDG.
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247
518-455-2677

□ **DISTRICT OFFICE:**
BINGHAMTON STATE OFFICE BLDG.
44 HAWLEY STREET, STE. 1607
BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK 13901
607-773-8771

March 24, 2020

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of the State of New York
New York State Capitol
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Governor Cuomo:

I'm writing on behalf of the people of the 52nd Senate District and the more than 8 million people living and working in Upstate New York.

First, let me share my appreciation for the hard work you and your team are doing during this public health crisis. You have shown remarkable leadership and I join you in praising the work of our health care professionals and first responders. I've never been prouder to be a New Yorker.

Over the last several days, it's become abundantly clear that the Southern Tier's health care system is starving for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and COVID-19 testing kits.

I'm hearing directly from our health officials, nurses, EMT's and physicians that they're severely under-equipped to handle the threat that's bearing down on us. We're specifically asking for COVID-19 testing kits, N95 Masks, Surgical Masks, Surgical Gowns, Gloves, Eye Protection, Collection Kits, Power Air Purifying Respirators, Sanitizing Wipes, and Reusable Rags.

For every day that passes without these critical resources, parents, friends and neighbors are suffering. In fact, I'm extremely concerned that members of our community and dozens elsewhere have lost their lives *before* being diagnosed with COVID-19 due to testing kit shortages.

Without the ability to test sick individuals, we risk losing the ability stop this virus from spreading. Without the necessary medical equipment for our health care workers, we fall short of our moral obligation to take care of those who care for us.



While I understand there's great need throughout our large state, my constituents are just as vulnerable and just as important as every other New Yorker, and we deserve a fighting chance to battle this public health crisis, Governor.

I'm strongly urging you to direct these resources to our community now so our health care workers have every tool at their disposal to save lives, prevent further infection and protect themselves and their families from this deadly virus.

I stand ready to work with you or any member of your team to ensure we save the lives of New Yorkers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred", written in a cursive style.

Frederick J. Akshar II
52nd Senate District