



December 10, 2020

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

Dear Governor Cuomo:

We are writing to you on behalf of those men and women who serve on the frontline of our fight against the Coronavirus pandemic. We strongly urge that, before any plan for vaccination is implemented by New York State, that you ensure that **our firefighters and all of our frontline emergency first responders are among the first to have access to the Coronavirus vaccine.**

Many local volunteer firefighter and ambulance departments are struggling with bare-bones budgets and inadequate staffing levels **in addition to** the requirement that they continue operating at full capacity, ESPECIALLY during this time of crisis. This obviously puts them at extreme risk and danger, regardless of the uncertainty of the crisis, and when experts were uncertain of any effects of the Coronavirus, these individuals bravely placed their hands on patients to comfort and care for our friends and family who became compromised. If one first responder in a department comes down with the virus, they could force an entire agency to temporarily shut down endangering whole communities.

Governor, our dedicated and courageous emergency first responders put their lives on the line every time they respond to a 911 call to enter a burning building or hop in an ambulance and go to an emergency, and this pandemic has made their jobs even more stressful and dangerous to them and their colleagues and families. We need to ensure that the people we hope and expect will be there as the front-line of care for those who may have COVID-19 are among the top tier of essential personnel who can receive the vaccine. By protecting our firefighters and emergency first responders from the Coronavirus, we will better protect all citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Tedisco".

Senator James N. Tedisco
49th Senate District

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daphne V. Jordan".

Senator Daphne Jordan
43rd Senate District

CC: NYS Department of Health Commissioner Howard Zucker