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**THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK**



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December 13, 2018

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Executive Chamber
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

During your tenure as Governor, you have been an outstanding animal advocate for enacting laws to help our four-legged friends, who are part of many of our families. I have seen the pictures of your beautiful dog, Captain, and can tell how important he is to you and your family, just as my Corgi Gracie is to mine.

I'm sure you can imagine how scary it would be if your dog was involved in just one minor altercation with another dog and its owner and was ordered by a court to be euthanized.

That's what happened in October to Luna, a 6-year-old Troy mix-breed dog. While the altercation involved was considered minor, the City of Troy at the time had a very strict ordinance on "dangerous dogs" that mandates a dog be put down after just one bite, regardless of the severity. The owner of the other dog opposes Luna being euthanized.

Following widespread public outcry over this local law, last week the Troy City Council unanimously voted to change the city's dog ordinance to ensure that a dog does not have to be euthanized after one bite. Troy Mayor Patrick Madden has signed the bill into law. However, this new local law is not retroactive, which means Luna's life is still in jeopardy.

The Mohawk Hudson Humane Society (MHHS), which currently has custody of Luna, is trying to fight the order to euthanize Luna in court, but these proceedings may drag on for months at a huge cost to taxpayers in terms of caring and housing Luna as well as in legal expenses. MHHS says that "during her stay at the Humane Society, they have seen no evidence of aggression to animals or people. Luna has been extremely well-behaved and affectionate while in our care."

MHHS reached out to me in light of my longstanding advocacy on animal cruelty legislation and related issues and asked me to write to you in the hope that you would use your constitutional power to pardon the dog's owner, Cade Saba, on the dangerous dog violation, thereby sparing Luna's life.

The professionals who assess dogs for adoption have evaluated Luna and determined she is not a dangerous dog. I've seen Luna first-hand, and she is a sweet and loving dog. It would be an injustice if the court order to put Luna down was carried out, particularly now that the city has changed its local law to prevent a situation like this from happening ever again. I hope you can help provide a Christmas miracle and grant a pardon to Luna's owner so this beautiful dog can be home for the holidays, where her adoring family and so many people in the Capital Region want her to be. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James N. Tedisco".

Senator James N. Tedisco

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