

## THE ASSEMBLY STATE OF NEW YORK ALBANY

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Mental Health Committee

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Alcoholism & Drug Abuse
Higher Education
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Racing & Wagering

March 18, 2021

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

Dear Governor Cuomo,

This week, you announced that the 11pm curfew will soon be lifted for casinos, billiard halls, gyms, and movie theaters. Yet, in defiance of logic, you are still unwilling to lift this arbitrary curfew for restaurants and bars. Governor, I ask that you follow your own advice: "follow the data" and end this harmful, illogical policy which is killing the food service industry.

Our restauranteurs have worked hard and invested great sums of money to ensure a safe atmosphere for patrons, and the data proves that they've been successful. According to New York's own data, restaurants and bars have accounted for just 1.4% of COVID-19 spread. If they can keep people safe at 10:55pm, why should we believe they can't at 11:05pm? Further, why should we believe that casinos and pool halls are safe from COVID after 11pm, but not restaurants? To put it simply – that's baloney.

This curfew continues to threaten the livelihoods of so many New Yorkers, yet it does nothing to protect public health. With a stroke of your pen, you have the ability to save countless businesses across our state. Please do the right thing and end this arbitrary restaurant curfew immediately.

Sincerely.

Jarett C. Gandolfo Member of Assembly

Janet Jandafa

7<sup>th</sup> District