



CHRISTOPHER TAGUE
Assemblyman 102nd District
Albany, Columbia, Delaware,
Greene, Otsego, Schoharie and
Ulster Counties

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
Committee on Tourism, Parks, Arts
and Sports Development

COMMITTEES
Election Law
Environmental Conservation
Local Governments
Real Property Taxation

January 15, 2021

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

Dr. Howard Zucker
Commissioner, New York State Department of Health
Corning Tower Building
Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12237

Dear Governor Cuomo and Commissioner Zucker:

With vaccine distribution underway, New York residents now have a reprieve from months of uncertainty and anguish. However, the majority of COVID-19 vaccines currently in New York are not being administered in a timely manner. Furthermore, there are emerging reports of improper vaccine storage resulting in disposal and waste.

For these reasons, we write to you today to express concern for the logistical management and distribution of the COVID-19 vaccination in our state. Our main concern is the distribution process and not the quantity available. We appreciate the decision to expand eligibility categories, but more must be done in order to ensure efficient distribution of the vaccine. Continued threats of punitive action based on arbitrary distribution guidelines will likely further disrupt vaccine administration and extend the vaccination timeline for all New Yorkers.

Keeping in mind existing pandemic response infrastructure, we propose to empower the individual home rule authorities, within each local area, to do more to develop and assist in the implementation of a local distribution plan. This would allow the individual counties to work with their health, emergency management, law enforcement, and fire departments, using already established teams. This process will also allow counties and cities to curtail the process to their own unique and diverse needs. A streamlined process will allow the vaccine to be distributed in a timely manner, thus increasing our usage numbers without mandating forced vaccinations.

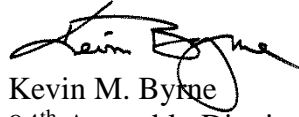
Simply put, giving home rule authority a voice in the distribution process will expand opportunities for diverse population groups to receive the vaccination. We thank you for taking the time to

consider our view on this matter and are available to help partner together with our counties and local governments to provide the vaccine to all of those in need.

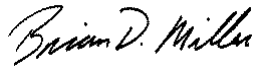
Sincerely,



Christopher Tague
102nd Assembly District



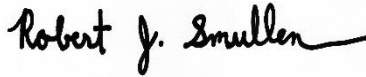
Kevin M. Byrne
94th Assembly District



Brian D. Miller
101st Assembly District



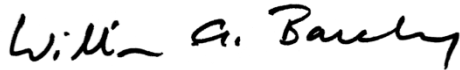
Jacob Ashby
107th Assembly District



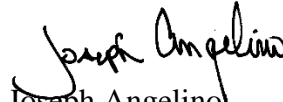
Robert J. Smullen
118th Assembly District



John J. Salka
121st Assembly District



Will Barclay
Assembly Minority Leader



Joseph Angelino
122nd Assembly District



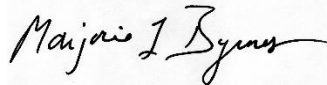
Kenneth D. Blankenbush
117th Assembly District



Karl Brabenec
98th Assembly District



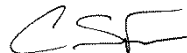
Keith P. Brown
12th Assembly District



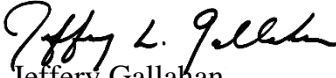
Marjorie L. Byrnes
133rd Assembly District

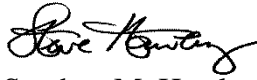


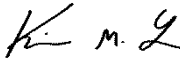
Michael J. Fitzpatrick
8th Assembly District





Christopher S. Friend
124th Assembly District

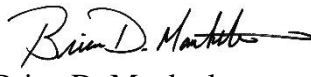

Jeffery Gallahan
131st Assembly District



Stephen M. Hawley
139th Assembly District



Kieran Michael Lalor
105th Assembly District



Michael Lawler
97th Assembly District

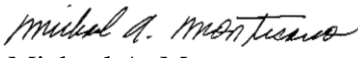

John Lemondes, Jr.
126th Assembly District



Brian D. Manktelow
130th Assembly District

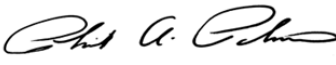

David G. McDonough
14th Assembly District



John Mikulin
17th Assembly District



Melissa "Missy" Miller
20th Assembly District

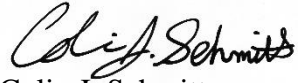

Michael A. Montesano
15th Assembly District


Michael J. Norris
144th Assembly District

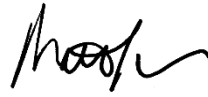

Philip A. Palmesano
132nd Assembly District


Edward P. Ra
19th Assembly District


Michael W. Reilly, Jr.
62nd Assembly District



Colin J. Schmitt
99th Assembly District



Matthew Simpson
114th Assembly District



Douglas M. Smith
5th Assembly District



Mary Beth Walsh
112th Assembly District