



THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

December 4, 2020

Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor, State of New York  
Executive Chamber, State Capitol  
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Governor Cuomo:

We urge your attention to the growing challenges that acute, intermediate and long-term care facilities, including nursing homes and those that provide care for children and adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities, across the state face concerning recruitment and retention due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rising COVID-19 infection rates are poised to test new surge capacity plans at hospitals and long-term care facilities throughout rural, suburban and urban New York. We are now armed with a better understanding of the virus, and of treatments and interventions, than we were at the start of this pandemic. Yet statistics, unfortunately, indicate that New York could face the long-feared scenario of health facilities statewide being overrun by coronavirus patients and COVID-19-related safety measures which would hinder access to care and potentially cost lives despite breakthroughs in medical treatments for COVID-19.

One of the greatest challenges for health facilities is the recruitment and retention of staff, from doctors and nurses to support staff, nurse assistants, janitorial staff and others. Many facilities faced difficulties with staff recruitment and retention prior to the start of the pandemic, proving that this is a long-term issue that the State must reckon with. The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly exacerbated the situation and we must swiftly provide a plan to remedy it.

New York State must use funding provided to the State by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to support health care staffing. Facilities should be provided with funding to provide hazard pay to the hard-working health care heroes already in their employment and for recruitment incentives for new staff.

We must work to ensure that the second wave of coronavirus infections that New York State experiences is less severe than the first wave. We can only do this by supporting staff in our acute, intermediate and long-term care facilities.

Thank you for your consideration of this crucial request.

Sincerely,



Marianne Buttenschon  
Assemblymember, 119<sup>th</sup> AD



Richard N. Gottfried  
Assemblymember, 75<sup>th</sup> AD



Aileen M. Gunther  
Assemblymember, 100<sup>th</sup> AD



Angelo Santabarbara  
Assemblymember, 111<sup>th</sup> AD



Carrie Woerner  
Assemblymember, 113<sup>th</sup> AD



Monica P. Wallace  
Assemblymember, 143<sup>rd</sup> AD



David G. McDonough  
Assemblymember, 14<sup>th</sup> AD



Brian D. Manktelow  
Assemblymember, 130<sup>th</sup> AD



Christopher Tague  
Assemblymember, 102<sup>nd</sup> AD



Charles Barron  
Assemblymember, 60<sup>th</sup> AD



Karl A. Brabenec  
Assemblymember, 98<sup>th</sup> AD



Stephen Hawley  
Assemblymember, 139<sup>th</sup> AD



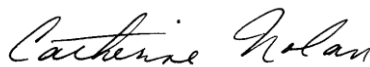
Aravella Simotas  
Assemblymember, 36<sup>th</sup> AD



Judy Griffin  
Assemblymember, 21<sup>st</sup> AD



Phil Steck  
Assemblymember, 110<sup>th</sup> AD



Catherine Nolan  
Assemblymember, 37<sup>th</sup> AD



Jo Anne Simon  
Assemblymember, 52<sup>nd</sup> AD



Catalina Cruz  
Assemblymember, 39<sup>th</sup> AD



Jonathan G. Jacobson  
Assemblymember, 104<sup>th</sup> AD



Pamela J. Hunter  
Assemblymember, 128<sup>th</sup> AD



Brian D. Miller  
Assemblymember, 101<sup>st</sup> AD



Peter Lawrence  
Assemblymember, 134<sup>th</sup> AD



Jake Ashby  
Assemblymember, 107<sup>th</sup> AD



Angelo J. Morinello  
Assemblymember, 145<sup>th</sup> AD



Karines Reyes  
Assemblymember, 87<sup>th</sup> AD



Al Taylor  
Assemblymember, 71<sup>st</sup> AD



Edward P. Ra  
Assemblymember, 19<sup>th</sup> AD