



MARY BETH WALSH
Assemblywoman 112th District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

ASSISTANT MINORITY LEADER
PRO TEMPORE
COMMITTEES
Education
Judiciary
Libraries and Education Technology
Mental Health

April 6, 2021

Howard Zucker MD, JD
Commissioner, New York State Department of Health
Corning Tower
Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12237

Dear Commissioner Zucker:

We write to you today at the request of Superintendents from throughout New York State to inquire about formal and updated guidance as it relates to High School Graduation Ceremonies, Prom and other end of school year events.

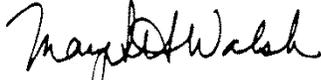
Another school year conducted amid the COVID-19 pandemic is nearing its end and, with that, the milestone celebrations and ceremonies that take place in the late spring and early summer need imminent attention. As with other protocols and guidance, school districts statewide are ready and willing to work alongside county health departments to ensure that the health and safety of students, staff and the general public remains top priority. However, without any indication or assistance from the State Department of Health, the districts are unable to move forward with adequately developing the plans that are necessary for these end-of-year events.

As bars and restaurants, movie theaters and gyms continue forward with reopening, and venues to accommodate weddings, professional and collegiate sports, arts and entertainment and other large gatherings prepare themselves to do the same, we cannot forget about the thousands of students throughout New York State.

Time-and-time again you have stressed the importance of maintaining safety and responsible measures, and we agree that these are critical to the forward movement of our state. However, we must also acknowledge that steps toward “normalcy” can be accomplished while also upholding the health and well-being of New Yorkers. All that these students and their supporters want is a chance to celebrate all that they have accomplished. We believe they are owed that chance.

On behalf of New York's students, their families and school districts, thank you for your time and consideration to this very timely and important matter.

Sincerely,



MaryBeth Walsh
112th Assembly District



Doug Smith
5th Assembly District



Joseph Angelino
122nd Assembly District



Jacob Ashby
107th Assembly District



Will Barclay
Assembly Minority Leader



Kenneth D. Blankenbush
117th Assembly District



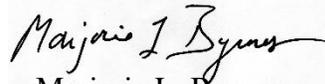
Karl Brabenec
98th Assembly District



Keith P. Brown
12th Assembly District



Kevin M. Byrne
94th Assembly District



Marjorie L. Byrnes
133rd Assembly District



Joseph P. DeStefano
3rd Assembly District



David J. DiPietro
147th Assembly District



Michael Durso
9th Assembly District



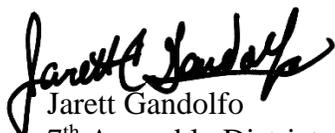
Michael J. Fitzpatrick
8th Assembly District



Christopher S. Friend
124th Assembly District



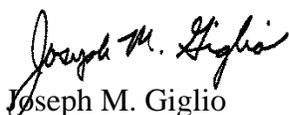
Jeffery Gallahan
131st Assembly District



Jarett Gandolfo
7th Assembly District



Jodi Giglio
2nd Assembly District



Joseph M. Giglio
148th Assembly District



Andrew Goodell
150th Assembly District



Stephen M. Hawley
139th Assembly District



Joshua T. Jensen
134th 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



Brian D. Miller
101st Assembly District



Melissa "Missy" Miller
20th Assembly District



Michael A. Montesano
15th Assembly District



Angelo J. Morinello
145th 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



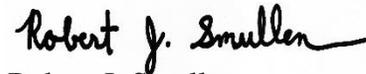
John J. Salka
121st Assembly District



Colin J. Schmitt
99th Assembly District



Matthew Simpson
114th Assembly District



Robert J. Smullen
118th Assembly District



Christopher Tague
102nd Assembly District



Michael Tannousis
64th Assembly District



Mark C. Walczyk
116th Assembly District