



**BRIAN MANKTELOW**  
Assemblyman 130th District  
Cayuga, Oswego and Wayne Counties

**THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY**

**Ranking Minority Member  
Oversight, Analysis &  
Investigation Committee**

**COMMITTEES  
Banks  
Labor  
Small Business  
Veterans' Affairs**

May 8, 2020

The Honorable Andrew Cuomo  
Governor, State of New York  
Executive Chamber, State Capitol  
Albany, New York 12224

Re: Reopening of Religious Institutions

Dear Governor Cuomo:

We are writing to respectfully request you consider re-opening religious institutions as soon as possible in order to help aid the spiritual health of New Yorkers. Several of our constituents, including pastors, rabbis, and other religious leaders, have reached out asking for us to speak out regarding this request. The COVID-19 outbreak has not just caused a physical health crisis; it has also caused a mental and spiritual crisis for many as well. New Yorkers have been ordered into isolation with almost no warning and while virtual services and practicing at home have been viable options for the time being, it is not enough for many who are starting to feel the serious effects of NY on PAUSE.

In addition to this affecting the mental and spiritual health of New Yorkers, it is also harming our local religious institutions. Many of these facilities rely heavily on donations and offerings and though some have continued to give virtually, the age-old phrase of "out of sight, out of mind" has begun to take effect. The toll this could have on religious institutions could be disastrous and by the time they are able to re-open, many may not be able to.

While we are unsure of where religious institutions would fall under the four phases proposed to open New York, we seriously hope you consider having them open sooner rather than later, to help both the struggling institutions and the mental and spiritual health of New Yorkers. In doing so, we also encourage these facilities to follow proper social distancing protocols such as wearing masks, refraining from physical contact, staying 6 feet away from one another and staying home if someone feels sick. We feel that religious institutions are essential to New Yorkers and, thus, should be re-opened to help them during this difficult time. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Assemblyman Brian D. Manktelow  
130<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Will Barclay  
Assembly Minority Leader



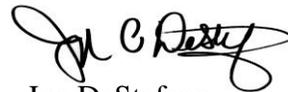
Jake Ashby  
107<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Kevin Byrne  
94<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Marjorie Byrnes  
133<sup>rd</sup> Assembly



Joe DeStefano  
3<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District



David DiPietro  
147<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Michael Fitzpatrick  
8<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Christopher S. Friend  
124<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Steve Hawley  
139<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Mark Johns  
135<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Brian M. Kolb  
131<sup>st</sup> Assembly District



Melissa "Missy" Miller  
20<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Mike Norris  
144<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



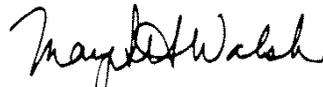
Ed Ra  
19<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Robert Smullen  
118<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Chris Tague  
102<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District



Mary Beth Walsh  
112<sup>th</sup> Assembly District