



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Brian Kavanagh

Kavanagh, Colleagues Ask CDC to Expand COVID-19 Testing in Brooklyn

BRIAN KAVANAGH March 19, 2020

| ISSUE: **COVID-19, HEALTH EQUITY, PUBLIC SAFETY**



On March 19, Senator Kavanagh, along with 23 colleagues, wrote to the CDC to request support in improving COVID-19 testing capacity in New York's largest borough, Brooklyn. The text of the elected officials' letter is below; the original may be viewed via the link above.

March 19, 2020

Robert R. Redfield, MD

Director

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

1600 Clifton Rd, Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Director Redfield:

Recently, members of the Brooklyn Congressional and State Delegations were briefed by SUNY Downstate President Dr. Wayne Riley on SUNY Downstate's response to the COVID-19 crisis and related impacts on our borough. The focus of this briefing was Downstate's current capacity to test for COVID-19. Recognizing that Brooklyn is the largest borough in New York City with 2.6 million residents – and many of them with high rates of asthma, diabetes and other conditions which put them in higher risk categories – we are writing to request your assistance in developing in-borough testing capacity.

Our understanding is that SUNY Downstate is prepared to move forward with on-site testing – with personnel and certifications already in-hand – but that they will require a COBAS 6800 testing machine. This equipment is critical to the borough's and Downstate's needs and it would allow more than 1,500 tests a day to begin being processed in Brooklyn. Further, we understand that Downstate is also prepared to develop a drive thru testing site, which we believe is also critically important and timely.

Dr. Redfield, as the representatives for Downstate and surrounding neighborhoods across Brooklyn, we remain available to you and your team to assist in any way possible with bringing on-site testing to our borough and we look forward to learning more about potential next steps.

Sincerely,

Senator Zellnor Myrie

Assemblymember Diana Richardson

Congressmember Yvette Clarke

Congressmember Nydia Velazquez

Congressmember Jerold Nadler

Congressmember Hakeem Jeffries

State Senator Diane Savino

State Senator Simcha Felder

State Senator Julia Salazar

State Senator Andrew Gounardes

State Senator Brian Kavanaugh

State Senator Velmanette Montgomery

State Senator Kevin Parker

State Senator Roxanne Persaud

Assemblymember N. Nick Perry

Assemblymember Charles Barron

Assemblymember Felix Ortiz

Assemblymember Joseph Lentol

Assemblymember Latrice Walker

Assemblymember Jo Anne Simon

Assemblymember Helene Weinstein

Assemblymember Walter Mosley

Assemblymember Peter J. Abbate, Jr.

Assemblymember Mathylde Frontus

cc: Governor Andrew Cuomo