



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Susan Serino

## LETTER: Senator Serino Fights for Salons and Barbershops

SUSAN SERINO June 4, 2020



THE SENATE



STATE OF NEW YORK

June 3, 2020

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

Dear Governor Cuomo:

I write to share with you the numerous concerns that have been brought to my attention by countless members of the professional service industry regarding the extensive guidelines set forth for reopening for hair salons and barbershops. While I certainly respect the immense pressure that the state is under to make quick decisions about how best to safely reopen, it seems as though those who will be directly impacted by

entire teams. Unless the state plans to provide these, free of charge before opening day, this seems like yet another guideline that will disproportionately hurt the smallest and most vulnerable of these businesses.

Additionally, many have expressed confusion as to why they are mandated to subject their employees to a regular health screening assessment (e.g., questionnaire, temperature check) but are expressly prohibited from mandating that their customers undergo the same screening before entering their place of employment.

This industry in particular has significant sanitization and safety training in order to operate under the best circumstances. Now, they have already put that training to good use and have made significant investments reconfigure their spaces in order to operate safely. These new guidelines have left many wondering whether it is even safe for their industry to reopen during Phase Two and has caused even more stress and frustration in an already uncertain time.

While public health must always be our top priority, now we need to be doing all that we can to empower our businesses to safely reopen. We should not be creating any more obstacles for them beyond what has been proven to be necessary to preserve public health. I urge you to take a hard look at these guidelines, consult directly with industry leaders across the state, and reevaluate the mandates that will disproportionately hurt the sector driven by so many hard-working New Yorkers.

I thank you for your time and consideration. If you need additional information, or need assistance connecting with these business owners and employees, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Senator Sue Serino  
41<sup>st</sup> District



Senator George M. Borrello  
57<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Rich Funke  
55<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Patrick M. Gallivan  
59<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Pamela Helming  
54<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Chris Jacobs  
60<sup>th</sup> District



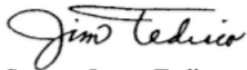
Senator Monica R. Martinez  
3<sup>rd</sup> District



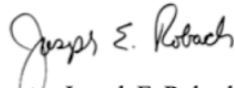
Senator Thomas F. O'Mara  
58<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Patty Ritchie  
48<sup>th</sup> District



Senator James Tedisco  
49<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Joseph E. Robach  
56<sup>th</sup> District