



New York State Senator
DAPHNE JORDAN
(R, C, IP, REF) 43RD SENATE DISTRICT



Dear Friend:

Happy Friday and welcome to the March 26 edition of my Weekly Wrap!

It's officially springtime and Legislative Session is well underway with the budget deadline quickly approaching next Thursday. This week, my colleagues and I continued advocating for our hardworking New Yorkers in the restaurant and bar industries by introducing a resolution to completely rescind Governor Cuomo's arbitrary 11 p.m. curfews. My Senate Republican colleagues and I also introduced our "Employee Protection Package" in effort to end workplace sexual harassment.

This week also marked a year since Governor Cuomo and his Administration's deadly mandate to place COVID-19 positive patients BACK into nursing homes. We stood in reembrace of the lives lost and continue our fight for truth, transparency, and justice.

In addition, you'll read about a new college-high school program launching at HVCC, my support for a bipartisan legislative resolution supporting our libraries, a local historic site awaiting your visit, and a Greek Independence Day celebration, Opa!

As always, I want to hear from YOU. If you have a comment, question, or concern, please email me at jordan@nysenate.gov or call my office at (518) 371-2751. Thank you for reading and subscribing to my Weekly Wrap. It's an honor and a privilege serving you!

– Senator Daphne Jordan, 43rd Senate District

Happy Spring!



Can you believe it's already Spring? I'm certainly ready for some green grass and sunshine! Goodbye winter, hello SPRING!

Stop the Cuomo Curfews



On Monday, I joined my colleagues in a press conference to introduce a concurrent resolution to rescind the completely arbitrary 11 p.m. curfew placed on bars and restaurants by Governor Cuomo. The Governor's mandate is hurting countless small businesses. New Yorkers are being vaccinated and warmer weather is on its way in. It's long past time for the Governor's 11 p.m. curfew for restaurants and bars to end.

The "Cuomo Curfew" has nothing to do with science and everything to do with his desire to control the lives of New Yorkers and the fate of small businesses. Are you more susceptible to COVID at 11 pm while eating out at a restaurant than at 10:59 pm? Are you less susceptible to COVID if you have food at a bar while you are sipping a drink than if the food wasn't sitting there? This arbitrary and needlessly restrictive Cuomo Curfew is keeping our

hardworking restaurant owners and staff in the dark. It MUST come to an end. We will not stop fighting for you!

Early College High School program to be available to students next fall



Hudson Valley Community College (HVCC) and Questar III are offering a great opportunity for high school students across seven counties! Applications for this program will be open next fall.

Learn more information on the [HVCC website here](#). Rensselaer County Executive Steve McLaughlin, HVCC President Dr. Roger Ramsammy, Questar III Superintendent Dr. Gladys I. Cruz, and Rensselaer County Legislator Tom Grant are pictured above.

Fighting against workplace sexual harassment



My colleagues, Senators Sue Serino, Pam Helming, and Alexis Weik, and I are continuing to take a stand for those who have been affected by workplace sexual harassment. I am proud to have joined them this week in introducing our “Employee Protection Act.” Workplace sexual harassment is all too pervasive in Albany. It needs to stop NOW!

While I am happy to stand alongside my colleagues and discuss our workplace protections package, I also want to reiterate that this behavior is still happening. It’s happening on the Capitol’s 2nd floor. We’ve all read the shocking stories of each and every accuser of Governor Cuomo – eight so far – they are heart-wrenching, and I commend those women for their bravery in coming forward. The stories of retaliation and a shadow investigation into the accusations by the Governor are equally disturbing.

My colleagues and I believe the Attorney General agrees with us, which is why we sent her a letter (pictured below) asking that she call on the Governor to cease and desist this ongoing unethical behavior. The investigations need to play out impartially. It’s the only way justice will be served.

The following links are to bills put forth related to workplace sexual harassment:

[Senate Bill S5770](#)

[Senate Bill S5765](#)

[Senate Bill S5769](#)

[Senate Bill S2948](#)

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Hon. Letitia James
Attorney General of the State of New York
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State Capitol
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Dear Attorney General James:

We write to ask that you immediately direct the Executive Chamber to cease its widely reported effort to conduct its own alternate or parallel "review" of the multiple sexual harassment and misconduct claims being made against Governor Andrew Cuomo.

Based on news accounts published in the *Wall St. Journal*, the *Times Union* and the *New York Post*, the Executive Chamber has hired a high-powered law firm to conduct this "review," and offered to have their lawyers "sit-in" with staff members on interviews with your duly appointed independent investigators, Anne L. Clark and Joon H. Kim.

We believe that the Governor's highly unusual plan creates a very real and obvious potential for witness tampering and intimidation, as well as obstruction of justice. Also clear is the threat that this questionable arrangement would pose to the work and integrity of your investigation.

Allowing the Governor's plan to proceed will mean that, in real time, both the Governor and his top aides will know precisely what is being discussed behind closed doors with your investigators. In addition, investigators simply cannot conduct candid, truth-seeking interviews if a staff member's own superiors are, in effect, sitting over his or her shoulders and listening to every word that is spoken.

What's more, if a person *declines* to avail themselves of this offer of "assistance" from the Governor's lawyers, it will create a very real potential for him or her to become an object of concern and/or suspicion within his or her own workplace. This is clearly problematic, especially given the fact that this particular work environment is widely acknowledged as being not only a "toxic" workplace, but one where "loyalty" is prized above all else.

All of these problems — coupled with a clear and consistent pattern of victim intimidation and a "climate of fear" perpetrated by the staff and/or loyalists of the Governor — make clear that this new development poses a very real threat to your efforts to conduct an independent, unfettered investigation. This is significantly compounded by the recent revelation that *the Governor himself*

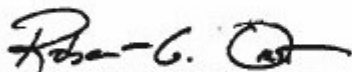
was personally involved in the drafting of a letter designed to smear and undermine the credibility of a former employee who had courageously stepped forward to tell her story.

When viewed in light of these factors, the Governor's proposal to have a "review" conducted by individuals of his own choosing becomes not only unacceptable, but completely outrageous. Ultimately, each of these problems pose a very direct and imminent threat to the integrity of the ongoing investigation being conducted by your duly appointed Independent Investigators. Simply put, it would be virtually impossible for your investigators to get to the truth of this matter if this proposed arrangement is allowed to proceed.

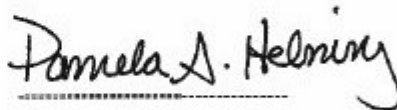
As New York State's top law enforcement officer, we respectfully urge you to take action immediately to direct the Executive Chamber to cease and desist its plan to conduct an alternate, parallel "review" of wrongdoing by the Governor and his top aides. To the extent that an Executive Chamber staff member indicates a desire to have counsel provided to them, we would strongly encourage you to facilitate that in a manner that meets the employee's needs, while not undermining and jeopardizing the multiple, ongoing investigations that are currently taking place.

We thank you for your attention to this critically important matter, and look forward to an immediate reply to this communication.

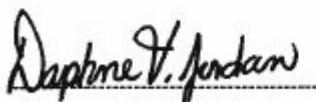
Sincerely,



Senator Robert G. Ort



Senator Pamela Helming



Senator Daphne Jordan



Senator Patty Ritchie



Senator Sue Serino



Senator Alexis Weik

Observing "We Care" Remembrance Day



On March 25, 2020, Governor Cuomo issued an Executive Order that forced COVID-positive patients back into nursing homes.

On Thursday morning, one year later, I stood with my colleagues and fellow New Yorkers to remember the many lives lost. Although I know this cannot bring loved ones back, we continue to take a stand in fighting for truth and transparency.

We've seen the consequences of the decision made one year ago. Over 15,000 seniors lost their lives and their loved ones were left reeling and searching for answers. My heart goes out to these families, whose lives changed forever.

March 25 will forever be a day to remember the legacies and humanity of the men and women who died as a result of the Governor's deadly and disastrous mandate and subsequent cover-up of this preventable tragedy. They were not numbers on a spreadsheet; they were parents and grandparents, aunts and uncles and dear friends, and they will always be remembered.

Honoring our libraries ([watch video here](#))



This week, I spoke on the Senate Floor in support of a bipartisan legislative resolution proclaiming April 4-10 as “Library Week” in New York State.

Throughout the pandemic, our public libraries have both continued to help close the digital divide and ensure that our communities stay informed. I want to thank and recognize all the dedicated, creative, hardworking library staff & librarians for the impact they make on our communities!

I also thank Chairman Sean Ryan for advancing this important bipartisan resolution and his leadership of our Senate Libraries Committee.

“Remember that our librarians were the original search engines; if you need to know something, ask your librarian!”

National Agriculture Day



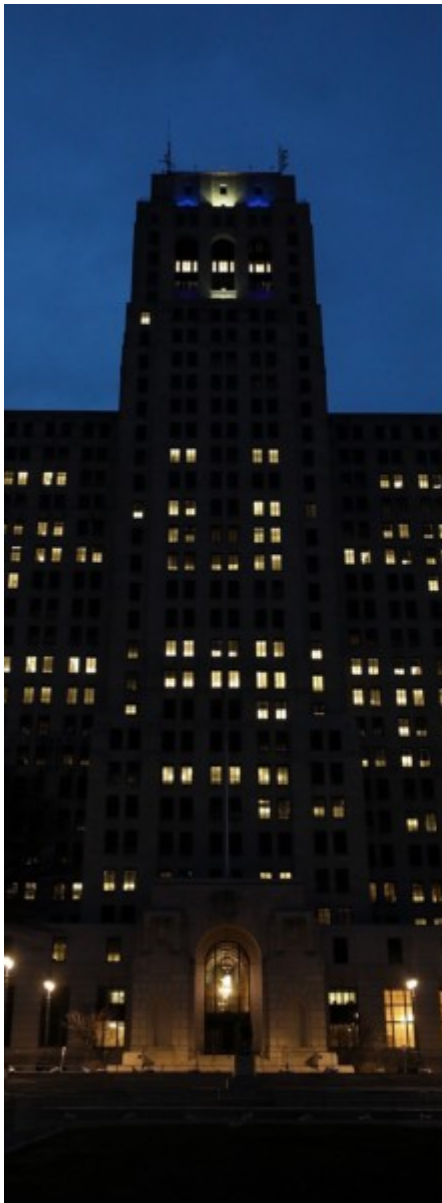
Tuesday was National Agriculture Day, recognizing the vital importance our farming families play in our nation and state. Our hard-working family farmers are the economic backbone of New York, and also supply the fresh, quality goods that keep us healthy. Visit the [official Ag Day website](#) to see how you can show your support!

Celebrating 200 years of Greek independence

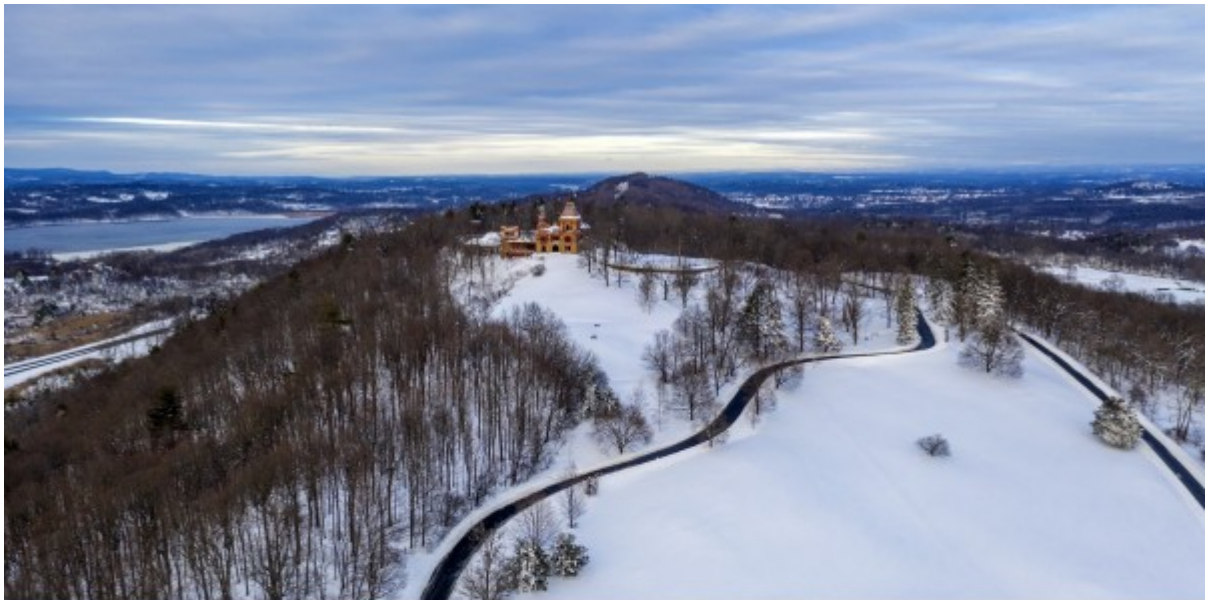


As a second generation Greek American, I'm proud of my family's connection to Greece where our roots run deep and strong. I was happy to support our bipartisan resolution observing Greek Independence Day, and I thank my colleague, Senator Gianaris for sponsoring this measure honoring our heritage. In addition to this, I was happy to be a part of the Greek Independence Day virtual celebration event on Wednesday! You can watch the video [here](#) (my remarks are at minute 22:37).

I partnered with Senator Gounardes in sending a letter to State Office of Government Services (OGS) Commissioner RoAnn Destito requesting that the Alfred E. Smith Building and other state buildings be illuminated in the colors of blue and white (the Greek flag). On Thursday night, the Alfred E. Smith Building and the State Education Building were lit up and looked beautiful!



Olana State Historic Site



It was great to have a meeting with Sean Sawyer, President of Olana State Historic Site, which is located in Hudson, NY. Olana was the primary home of Frederic Church during the 19th century, who is still well-known today for his landscape masterpieces.

Olana's 250-acre landscape is free to walk and enjoy any day of the week. It's a perfect activity now that spring is here! They also have a Museum Store and outdoor tours available on weekends. Indoor tours are coming soon! I can't wait to visit Olana again soon myself!

[Check out their website here.](#)

[Check out their 21st Annual Frederic Church Award Gala here.](#)

Observing World Down Syndrome Day



Last Sunday was World Down Syndrome Day, an important day to acknowledge and advocate for the men, women, and children with Down syndrome. To learn more about how you can help this worthy cause, check out the [World Down Syndrome Day website](#).

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THE NEW YORK STATE SENATE