



Dear Friend:

Happy Friday and welcome to the March 5 edition of my Weekly Wrap!

This month, we proudly celebrate and recognize women of history that have positively influenced our nation. We also recognize the importance of giving blood during American Red Cross Month, which was initiated during March of WWII.

In this week's Wrap, I also share updates on the latest disturbing allegations against Governor Cuomo, the independent investigation process being conducted by the State Attorney General and my efforts to repeal the Governor's emergency powers.

Finally, make sure to check out Senate Bill S.1183 that I'm co-sponsoring with Senator Addabbo, which pertains to mobile sports betting and gambling addiction (a chart explaining what the bill would change is included in this Wrap). I also included information explaining the significance of Lyme disease prevention in New York State, which you can read more about below.

As always, I want to hear from YOU. If you have a comment, question, or concern, please email me at [jordan@nysenate.gov](mailto: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 District**

**Supporting our excellent public libraries**



I was happy to recently meet with some of my favorite people at the Mid-Hudson, Upper Hudson, and the Southern Adirondack Library Systems. We discussed library construction, the importance of state investment, and the vital role of our public libraries during the pandemic. Also, I participated in a roundtable with libraries from all around the state on Monday morning. I'll always advocate for our excellent public libraries that promote lifelong learning, literacy, reading, communication, socialization and help NY families bridge the digital divide!

**Taking part in the Rensselaer County Regional Chamber of Commerce's Meet the Legislators event**



Last Friday, I took part in the 2021 edition of “Meet the Legislators” hosted by the Rensselaer County Regional Chamber of Commerce, where I answered questions from constituents about issues that matter to them and their businesses. Thank you to the Rensselaer County Regional Chamber of Commerce for hosting this event!

### **Another serious allegation made against Governor Cuomo**



Over the weekend, another former aide to Governor Cuomo courageously came forward with detailed, substantive accusations of sexual harassment against him as chronicled in a *New York Times* story. These cases MUST be taken seriously with an immediate, independent investigation. You can read the shocking story [by clicking here](#).

The truth must be revealed for these women and the safety of others, which is why my Senate Republican colleagues and I issued the following statement below:

**JOINT STATEMENT FROM SENATORS PAM HELMING,  
DAPHNE JORDAN, PATTY RITCHIE, SUE SERINO, AND ALEXIS  
WEIK**

Tonight's New York Times story describes behavior by Governor Cuomo that if true, is disturbing and completely unacceptable for anyone, and especially the top elected official in New York State.

His alleged predatory actions are egregious and if the account is accurate, they have crossed the line. Within a single week, two brave individuals have come forward to share their stories of working for this man.

Governor Cuomo now more than ever must be investigated. We reiterate our original request and demand Attorney General Letitia James appoint a Special Prosecutor to review all of these recent allegations.

**Independent investigation into Governor Cuomo's alleged misconduct moves forward**





STATE OF NEW YORK  
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER  
ALBANY 12224

ANDREW M. CUOMO  
GOVERNOR

BETH GARVEY  
SPECIAL COUNSEL AND  
SENIOR ADVISOR TO THE GOVERNOR

March 1, 2021

Hon. Letitia James  
Attorney General of the State of New York  
State Capitol  
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Attorney General James,

The Governor is hereby making a referral pursuant to Executive Law Section §63 (8) for you to select an independent law firm to conduct an inquiry into allegations of and circumstances surrounding sexual harassment claims made against the Governor.

As provided in Executive Law § 63(8), that private attorney or private attorneys, may be designated as Special Deputy Attorney General or Assistant Deputy Attorney General, to conduct the review.

Nothing in this letter is intended to constrain or limit any of the powers inherent in Executive Law § 63(8). Due to the nature of this review, however, the weekly reports contemplated by Executive Law § 63(8) will not be approved by or transmitted to the Executive. At the close of the review, the findings will be disclosed in a public report.

All New York State employees have been directed to cooperate fully with this review. I will serve as point of contact for any witness interviews or document production for the Executive Chamber and will connect you with appropriate counsel in any other agency or entity for any documents or witnesses necessary for the review.

Sincerely,

  
Beth Garvey  
Special Counsel and Senior Advisor

**WE WORK FOR THE PEOPLE**  
PERFORMANCE \* INTEGRITY \* PRIDE

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This letter pictured above confirms that the independent investigation I've been calling for into Governor Cuomo's alleged misconduct is underway. The Governor will NOT be picking his own investigator, that suggestion was ludicrous and a non-starter coming from a Governor who is a former State Attorney General.

Attorney General James will select a private firm independent of state government to proceed with this important investigation. New Yorkers are eagerly awaiting to see who that pick will be. These serious allegations against the Governor must be investigated, swiftly, thoroughly, and independently.

## Update on repealing Governor Cuomo's emergency powers



I have been calling on repealing the Governor's emergency powers since last May, and 21 times this year! Every time my colleagues and I offered an amendment to rescind his powers, the Senate Democratic Majority struck it down.

Governor Cuomo is the subject of a federal investigation for covering up 15,000 deaths of senior citizens in our nursing homes. Now, the State Attorney General is investigating two credible, detailed allegations of sexual harassment and a third victim has recently spoken up. The Governor cannot be trusted with his expanded emergency powers and it's long since past time for the state legislature to revoke them.

The "revocation" touted by Senate Democrats is a sham that does nothing to restore the legislature's powers and rein in this out-of-control Governor. In fact, they did the opposite and drafted their bill in conjunction with him and got his approval before acting. Instead of removing his expanded powers, they removed their April 30 sunset date, essentially

extending the Governor's total control indefinitely.

The fact that Governor Cuomo himself, during his press conference, supported this measure and said it changes nothing is all you need to know about how the Senate Democrats are responding. They don't want the responsibility of navigating our state through the coronavirus pandemic. They don't want to be the ones to check a Governor that has rapidly lost the trust of New Yorkers through his shameful treatment of women and his constant lies and cover-ups. They don't want to do what must be done for our hardworking men and women and hold this Governor accountable.

We know Governor Cuomo has no shame. It's clear that Senate Democrats don't either. By continuing to back the Governor, the Senate Democrats have sent a message that one-party rule is really one-person rule.

### **American Red Cross Month**



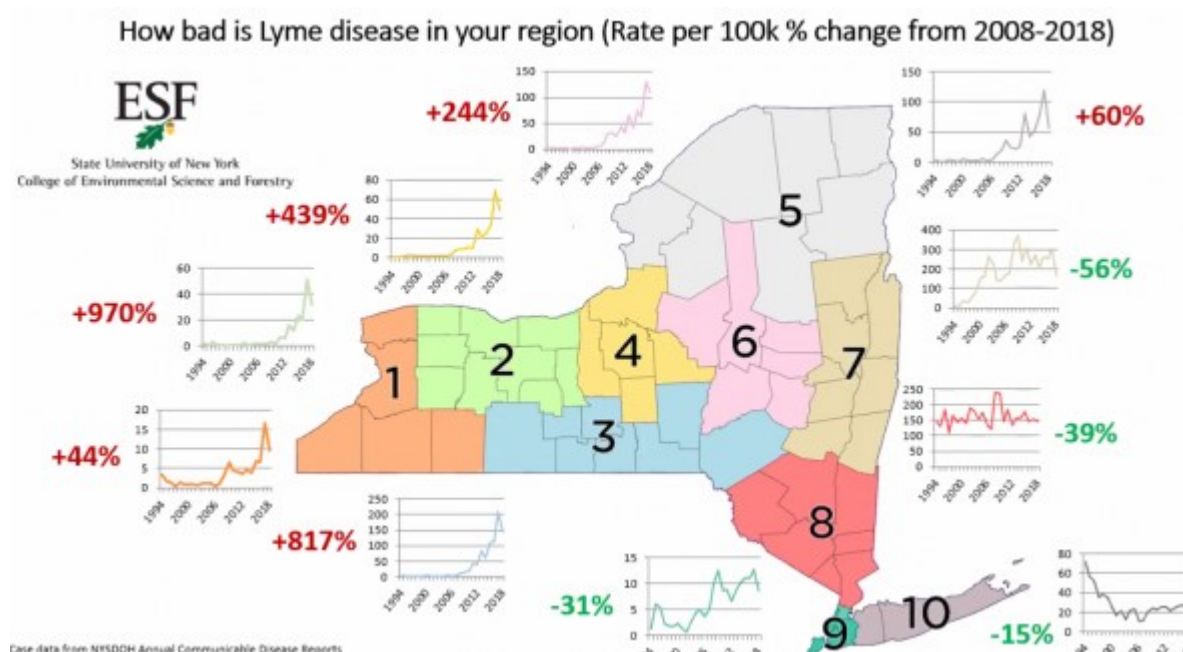
March is American Red Cross Month and it's a great opportunity to celebrate and give back to the everyday heroes that keep our communities running. To help the Red Cross turn compassion into action, head over to their [website](#) and learn more.

### **Women's History Month**



March is Women's History Month. While women should be recognized consistently for their important, ongoing efforts at the vanguard in advancing our society, this is an ideal moment to learn more about the many contribution women have made by visiting the official Women's History Month [website](#).

### The fight against Lyme disease



Thank you to my friend and colleague Senator Sue Serino for her continued leadership and advocacy in the fight against Lyme disease and tick-borne illnesses. I was happy to be a part of an informational panel Tuesday afternoon in support of the effort to bring funding for Lyme disease prevention back into the 2021-22 State Budget.

Columbia County, all of which is in my 43rd Senate District, has been characterized as “ground zero” for Lyme disease. New York State needs to make real progress towards combatting this public health crisis. Funding for Lyme disease prevention MUST remain a



priority, but sadly, Governor Cuomo's Executive Budget proposal contains none. Instead, the Governor's budget proposal eliminated \$69,400 allocated annually to the State Department of Health for this issue.

I will continue to stand alongside Senator Serino and my colleagues in calling for at least \$1.5 million to be included in this year's State Budget to fund research, prevention, and education to help combat the spread of this deadly disease.

### Senate Bill combatting problem gambling















## S1183/A1257

### COMBATS PROBLEM GAMING

**Protecting New Yorkers:** The Nation's Strongest Problem Gaming Protections for Sports Wagering

New Yorkers are already betting on sports, both in person with their local bookie and online from illegal offshore websites and apps. This unregulated illegal market has no consumer protections. Our state is positioned to stamp out this illegal market and bring sports wagering into the light—and to enact the nation's strongest requirements for preventing and addressing problem gaming.

**Here's how:**

LEGAL MARKET under S1183/A1257		Today's unregulated ILLEGAL MARKET
	<b>Funding for Problem Gaming.</b> At least 5% of sports wagering tax revenue dedicated to problem gaming education and treatment.	
	<b>Identifying Problem Gaming.</b> Brick-and-mortar sports books must train employees on spotting warning signs of problem gaming and how to help patrons with symptoms of gaming addiction.	
	<b>Helping Patrons Help Themselves.</b> When customers raise the flag, sportsbooks have to step in to help customers self-exclude from wagering. This means creating procedures--and following them—that empower customers to exclude themselves from play and limit their wagers.	
	<b>Educating Patrons About Problem Gaming.</b> Every sports book must inform customers about assistance for compulsive play, maintain easy-to-find websites devoted to responsible play, and give links to gaming assistance resources in every app.	
	<b>Shielding Minors from Wagering.</b> Children shouldn't bet on sports. Sportsbooks must use know-your-customer technology to ensure minors do not place bets. Sportsbooks cannot target advertising to minors.	
	<b>Empowering Parents to Protect Kids.</b> Parents know best. The bill will give parents tools to protect their children by requiring that sports books offer parental controls to exclude minors from visiting the platform. In the unlikely event a minor manages to create an account and place a wager, the operator must refund any deposit within two days regardless of betting activity.	
	<b>Monitoring Betting Activity for Red Flags.</b> Sportsbooks need to affirmatively reach out to patrons who might have problem gaming issues. The bill would require that operators send a message to any patron when they have \$2,500 in lifetime deposits, giving information about problem gaming resources and self-exclusion procedures.	

**New York should lead the way on sports wagering** and protecting the small percentage of patrons who might encounter problem gaming concerns.

**PASS S1183/A1257**

March is Problem Gambling Month, so thank you to Senator Joe Addabbo for this helpful information on Senate Bill S.1183 (details of which are pictured above) which I am co-sponsoring. When passed, this measure would legalize mobile sports betting in New York State, which would bring in \$84 million in one-time license fees, a conservatively figured annual revenue of \$79 million, and will help identify and aid where an individual has a gambling addiction and to address pre-addiction awareness. You can view more information on this bill [here](#).

### Local roads are ESSENTIAL



I've always said, "local roads matter." Now, I say "local roads are essential!" In this year's State Budget, the Governor and downstate Democrats shortchange funding for our local roads, bridges, and infrastructure in favor of funneling money to the failing MTA and New York City transportation. I'm pictured above with my colleagues Assemblyman Jake Ashby and Assemblywoman Mary Beth Walsh during our press conference in the State Capitol on Wednesday where we advocated for Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) funding restoration.

There must be equity in transportation and infrastructure funding. Our dedicated men and women who work on maintaining our roads deserve the funding they need to fix potholes, install sidewalks, and make the improvements we need to live in vibrant communities.

Our Senate Republican Conference has consistently fought for, and delivered, equal funding statewide for local roads and bridges. As we move toward passing a State Budget, we will continue this critical fight. Every region, every neighborhood deserves an equal opportunity to thrive.

Ensuring an equal share of transportation and infrastructure funding is the first step toward accomplishing that. We support and are advocating for:

- Restoration & increased CHIPS funding in extreme winter recovery for our roads
- Doubling PAVE-NY
- Doubling Bridge-NY
- Restoring the full \$120.6M cut from municipalities in 20-21'

Upstate matters!

**Calling for the removal of Governor Cuomo's emergency powers... AGAIN**



During our session on Thursday, I once again offered an amendment on behalf of our Senate Republican Conference to rescind Governor Cuomo's expanded emergency powers, marking the 21st time (!!!) that we have advanced this necessary amendment to restore the state legislature to its rightful place as a co-equal branch of state government. You can watch a video of my floor remarks [by clicking here](https://pubfiles.nysenate.gov/crm/jordan/view/13ec533b451e7838).



The deal that was announced a few days ago by Democrats in both houses to supposedly remove the Governor's powers just doesn't cut it. That bogus bill allows the Governor to keep and extend his powers. It's insulting to the intelligence of New Yorkers and is a sham rescission-decision. We need a straight repeal that will finally bring back true oversight, accountability, and restore the state legislature as a co-equal branch of government!

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## THE NEW YORK STATE SENATE