



Dear Friend:

Happy Friday and welcome to the February 12 edition of my Weekly Wrap!

February is flying by, and we are already into the sixth week of our 2021 Legislative Session! In this week's Wrap, I provide updates about the COVID-19 vaccine concerning those with comorbidities and also shared my public statement on the Governor's decision to vaccinate inmates before other New Yorkers, which was a terrible policy. You'll also read about one of my new Senate Committee assignments, as well as one of the four Senate Committees where I'm now serving as the Ranking Member this Session, all in this week's Wrap.

This week my Senate Republican colleagues and I continued our important fight for truth and transparency for our nursing homes and residents. I also advanced our Conference's common-sense amendment to try and rescind the Governor's expanded emergency powers during our Senate Session. This week (late last night) also saw another bombshell revelation, this one from the Governor's top staffer acknowledging that the Cuomo Administration deliberately withheld information from state and federal authorities on the true, tragic number of nursing home deaths caused by the Governor's disastrous mandate that nursing homes accept COVID-19 positive patients. You'll read more about this growing controversy and my continued search for the truth in this week's Wrap.

Additionally, this week I was proud to stand up for law enforcement, who do such an incredible job keeping all New Yorkers safe and secure. And, I was happy to see the Buccaneers take the victory for Super Bowl LV!

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 District

Buccaneers take the W for Super Bowl LV



Weekly Wrap readers will recall that I had predicted Bucs 31, and Chiefs 28 in last week's Wrap. I was surprised to see that my prediction for the Bucs was spot-on, but the Chiefs ended with 9. Now, will Tom Brady retire with his 7th Super Bowl victory – or continue for another season?

New York to vaccinate individuals with comorbidities



My office has received many questions regarding when will individuals with comorbidities be vaccinated in New York State? I am pleased to share that beginning this Monday, February 15, local health departments will begin administering COVID-19 vaccines to

people with comorbidities. [View the Spectrum News article here.](#)

The following list is of adults of any age who fall into this category:

- Cancer (current or in remission, including 9/11-related cancers)
Chronic kidney disease
- Pulmonary Disease, including but not limited to, COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), asthma (moderate-to-severe), pulmonary fibrosis, cystic fibrosis, and 9/11 related pulmonary diseases
- Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities including Down Syndrome
- Heart conditions, including but not limited to heart failure, coronary artery disease, cardiomyopathies, or hypertension (high blood pressure)
- Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) including but not limited to solid organ transplant or from blood or bone marrow transplant, immune deficiencies, HIV, use of corticosteroids, use of other immune weakening medicines, or other causes
- Severe Obesity (BMI ≥ 40 kg/m²), Obesity (BMI of 30 kg/m² or higher but
- Pregnancy
- Sickle cell disease or Thalassemia
- Type 1 or 2 diabetes mellitus
- Cerebrovascular disease (affects blood vessels and blood supply to the brain)
- Neurologic conditions including but not limited to Alzheimer's Disease or dementia
- Liver Disease

My statement on inmates being vaccinated before vulnerable New Yorkers



Last Friday, February 5, I issued the following public statement (below) regarding the Governor's inexplicable policy to put inmates ahead of law-abiding New Yorkers in terms of

receiving a COVID-19 vaccine:

“The Cuomo administration’s foolish decision to allow inmates to be vaccinated against COVID-19 while vulnerable New Yorkers must wait their turn, whenever that will be, for the life-saving vaccine is outrageous, shameful, and nonsensical. The state’s COVID-19 vaccine rollout has been bungled, botched, and micromanaged from the very beginning. Prioritizing prisoners – putting lawbreakers ahead of law-abiding, vulnerable New Yorkers – is the latest example of Albany’s 'Bizzaro World' misplaced priorities. Criminals being placed ahead of law-abiding citizens, including immunocompromised individuals, for the COVID-19 vaccine is simply inexcusable.” – **Senator Daphne Jordan**

Working to rescind the Governor’s expanded emergency powers



On Monday, I spoke on the Senate floor offering an amendment on behalf of our Senate Republican Conference to rescind Governor Cuomo's expanded emergency powers. It was the TWELFTH time that our Conference has tried to restore checks and balances to New York! Unfortunately, not a single Senate Democrat voted to reestablish the Legislature as a co-equal branch. My full statement is below:

“On behalf of our Senate Republican Conference, during session yesterday I offered a

common-sense amendment to rescind Governor Cuomo's expanded emergency powers and restore much-needed checks and balances to our state government. Yesterday marked the twelfth time that we have pushed to reassert ourselves and re-establish the necessary separation of powers so vital to our democracy. New Yorkers have endured this administration's arbitrary economic restrictions, fumbled vaccine rollout, as well as its disastrous and deadly nursing home scandal. The Governor is not a king and the continuation of his one-person rule is antithetical to democracy.

In recent weeks we have seen the State Attorney General's bombshell report on nursing homes and learned of the mass exodus of State Department of Health officials. Our Senate Republican Conference continues calling for an independent investigation of New York's nursing home tragedies and true accountability and transparency. My colleagues and I again urged the Senate Majority to stop turning a blind eye to the Cuomo administration's failings. This issue is bigger than partisan politics: it's about doing what's right, and the state legislature reasserting its rightful prerogative as a coequal branch of our state government to ensure proper checks and balances. While it is disappointing that the Senate Democratic Majority did not join us in our push for good government and greater accountability from Albany, we will continue working toward a restoration of checks and balances necessary for a better New York State."

Senate Republicans partner with Assembly Republicans and Congressman Reed in the search for truth



On Tuesday afternoon, my Senate and Assembly Republican colleagues and I (pictured above) held a press conference with Congressman Tom Reed, NY23 discussing efforts to secure justice for the families of New Yorkers who lost loved ones due to Governor Cuomo's mishandling of the COVID-19 pandemic in our state's nursing homes. We also called on the Department of Justice to provide the public with answers and accountability through a full independent and fair federal investigation. We will not back down on this issue!

Governor's top staffer admits the Cuomo administration deliberately withheld information on the true, tragic nursing home death toll caused by its deadly mandate



Cuomo aide admits they hid nursing home data so feds wouldn't find out

By Bernadette Hogan, Carl Campanile and Bruce Golding

February 11, 2021 | 6:51pm

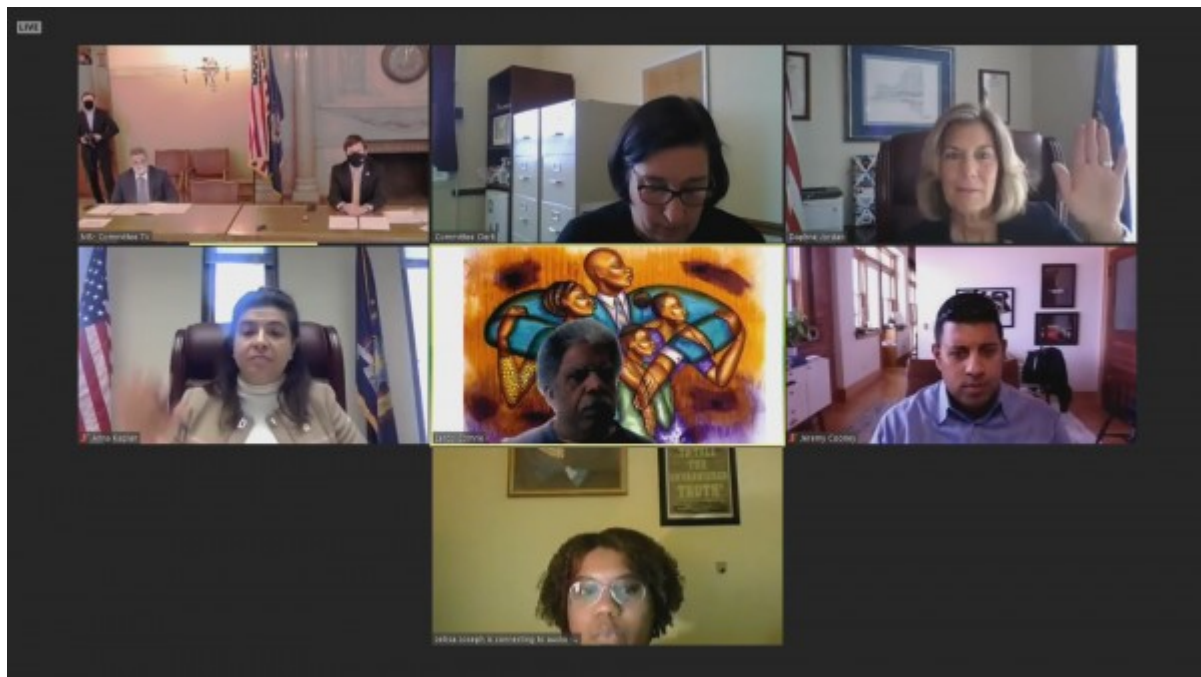


Governor Andrew Cuomo dismissed the matter of where nursing home fatalities actually took place.

Late Thursday night saw the release of yet another bombshell revelation into the Cuomo Administration's widening, deepening nursing home scandal and attempted coverup of the more than 15,000 tragic deaths caused by the Governor's deadly mandate that they accept COVID-19 positive patients. Now, after months of denial, delay, and deceit, the Cuomo Administration FINALLY admitted that it deliberately withheld the state's true nursing-home death toll from COVID-19 because they "froze" out of fear that the true numbers would be used in a lawful, independent federal investigation. This is an outrageous betrayal of the public trust and an insult to the thousands of NY families who lost a loved one because of the Cuomo Administration's dishonesty and sheer incompetence.

Tellingly, the only apology from the Cuomo Administration has been to the Democratic politicians for the "inconvenience" it caused in their campaigns and political lives, not the families who lost a loved one. Not only should Health Commissioner Zucker resign, but there must also be a state-federal investigation as I've been calling for, to provide answers, accountability, and transparency. [You can read the full story here.](#)

My new Senate Committee



This week also was our first meeting of the Senate Libraries Committee and I am thrilled to serve as this Committee's Ranking Member! We must do our part to support and strengthen our libraries, and I look forward to partnering with Chairman Sean Ryan and our fellow members in doing so.

Protecting our families and supporting law enforcement



The past two years of one-party control of government has been a huge blow to public safety. The Governor's Public Protection plan in this year's budget continues that disturbing trend.

Under the umbrella of "cost-savings," 800 corrections officers will be laid off and 1,300-1,800 cell beds will be removed. He is also seeking to shorten the amount of time these facilities and their hardworking staff will receive before notice of closure. The Governor is also continuing his out-of-touch strong-arm tactics and anti-police agenda by looking to install a monitor in police departments to tell police how to go about keeping communities safe.

We've seen a dangerous rise in violent crime due to the Governor and state Democrats' so-called bail and police reforms. The Governor is continuing to put innocent lives in danger by not including a repeal of bail reform in this year's budget. Instead, the actions he's outlining in this year's agenda will only make our communities less safe and put more dangerous criminals back on the street.

I remain committed to protecting our families and supporting law enforcement. As the budget process proceeds, I will continue to fight for common-sense public safety measures.

Advocating for overnight summer camps to reopen

Overnight summer camps are ready, willing, and able to meet and exceed all health and safety protocols to provide a positive experience for their guests. For the sake of our economy, and our children who have endured so many significant disruptions and challenges, our state needs to allow these beloved summertime institutions to open for the 2021 season without any further delay!

My letter to the Governor advocating for overnight summer camps to open for the 2021 summer season is pictured below, and my press release on this important issue is available on [my Senate website by clicking here](#).

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February 11, 2021

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

RE: New York State allowing the opening of overnight summer camps

Dear Governor Cuomo:

I write respectfully requesting that overnight camps be allowed to open so thousands of children may receive much-needed opportunities to safely enjoy New York's great outdoors, spend quality time with their peers, make new friends, and create lifelong memories.

The past year of the COVID-19 pandemic has been especially challenging for children and families across New York State. From social distancing to mask-wearing, remote/hybrid academic learning, the cancellation or suspension of sports, clubs, and other beloved extracurricular activities, the children of New York State have experienced unprecedented changes and challenges to their everyday lives. New York's children have continually shown incredible resiliency and courage in the face of these disruptions.

Last year, out of an abundance of caution for the health and safety of children and camp staff, New York State suspended the operation of overnight summer camps. Now, as we will soon mark one year since the COVID-19 pandemic's onset, we thankfully have multiple vaccines that are proven safe and efficacious in preventing severe COVID-related illness, hospitalization, and death. We also know much more about the virus, how it spreads, and that effective risk mitigation efforts such as proper social distancing, thorough sanitization, and the wearing of masks can help prevent and reduce the spread of COVID-19.

On Tuesday, February 2, 2021, the New York State Camp Safety Advisory Council, comprised of representatives from the New York State Department of Health, the medical community, camp owners, and directors held a public meeting on the resumption of summer camps. The resolution of their meeting was the passage of a resolution affirming that overnight and day camps can operate safely this summer. The Council unanimously voted to both recommend to New York State that overnight camps should be allowed to operate and that there should be no limitations on group size on overnight and day camps. The Council's detailed report advocating for the resumption of summer camps is currently being circulated within the State Department of Health.

Without question, sleepaway camps serve an invaluable role in children's positive social-emotional development. Camp is perhaps the safest and best place for young people to be, both from an emotional and physical health perspective, given all they have been subjected to because of COVID-19.

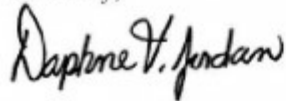
Serious economic consequences are expected if overnight summer camps in New York State are not allowed to return to full operational status this summer. In fact, it is anticipated that many New York State sleepaway camps may permanently go out of business due to ongoing financial hardships, meaning more lost jobs and opportunities for our state.

Governor, sleepaway camps in Maine and New Hampshire safely operated in 2020. Furthermore, on June 26, 2020, your administration announced that day camps statewide were allowed to resume operations effective June 29, 2020, and they did so, successfully. New York State's overnight summer camps should be afforded the same opportunity for the benefit of countless children who missed out on this experience last year due to the pandemic.

New York State providing advance notice that overnight summer camps can resume their operations will assist them in successfully implementing all necessary COVID-19 safety protocols including testing, capital projects, supply ordering, and hiring staff. Overnight summer camps are ready, willing, and able to meet and exceed all health and safety protocols to provide a positive experience for guests. They must be allowed to do so.

Thank you for your consideration of my request made on behalf of overnight summer camps across New York State.

Sincerely,



Daphne Jordan
State Senator, 43rd District

Protecting local taxpayers and services



Governor Cuomo is passing his fiscal crisis onto local governments by cutting nearly \$10 million in financial support and proposing draconian cuts to our communities. Some cities face a 20 percent cut in the direct state aid to municipalities known as AIM funding. Towns and villages would receive no state support at all. This forces counties to make up the difference through sales tax collections (and probably sales tax increases).

All local government assistance payments are facing a 5-percent cut. On top of this, the Governor is reducing aid to localities for economic development by \$20 million and cutting nearly \$10 million in state support to Video Lottery Terminals statewide, making it that much harder for our communities to recover from the coronavirus pandemic.

The Governor is putting an additional strain on overburdened local governments and taxpayers. First, it's sales tax increases to replace AIM. Then, the cuts in other assistance programs make it harder for local governments to both stay within the property tax cap and maintain essential services.

We need to ensure local governments are equipped to make it through the current crisis and have the resources to help rebuild our state in the years to come.

Residents shouldn't have to fear a decline in services or about having to pay more in sales and property taxes. As we continue the budget process, I will fight for our taxpayers and our local officials and ensure they have everything they need to keep our communities strong.

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