



Dear Friend:

Happy Friday and welcome to the February 19 edition of my Weekly Wrap!

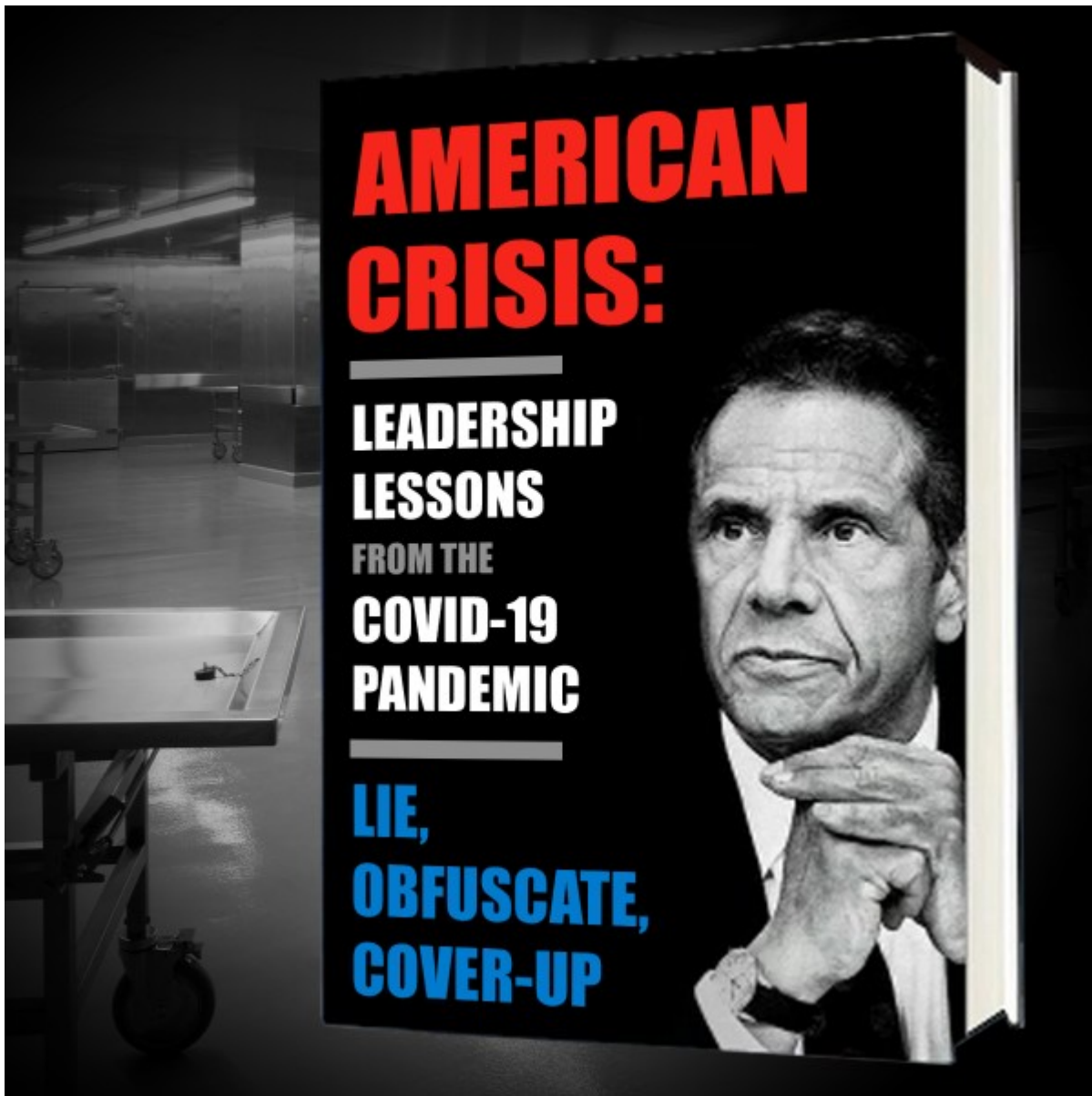
This week I continued standing up and speaking out for families that tragically lost loved ones in a nursing home due to the Cuomo Administration's disastrous, deadly mandate that these institutions accept COVID-19 positive patients. My Senate Republican colleagues and I hear your concerns, and the concerns of families for more than 15,000 New Yorkers that died as a result of the administration's reckless mandate. We will keep working towards the truth, and demanding answers and accountability. We will continue advancing our amendment to rescind the Governor's extended emergency powers, an important goal that I'm hopeful will be accomplished soon. You'll read more about our critical effort in this week's Wrap.

This week, I was proud to deliver real results for overnight summer camps which have been devastated by the Governor's COVID-19 lockdowns. New York's hardworking business owners are more than capable of opening safely, which is why I'm thrilled to see that after my advocacy and letters, overnight summer camps will be able to officially re-open! Of course, there's never a shortage of things to discuss in my Weekly Wrap and you'll read many more details on these and other stories below.

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

Hiding 15,000+ deaths is not a “political position”



As you've probably seen, read, or heard, the New York Post recently released a recording of top Governor Cuomo staffer Melissa DeRosa meeting with Senate and Assembly Democrat leaders about the nursing home scandal that led to 15,000 COVID-related deaths. In her meeting, she confirmed that the Governor and his top deputies deliberately covered up how many people died due to his decision to put COVID-infected patients back into nursing homes.

Afraid of a federal investigation into his disastrous nursing home policy, DeRosa said the Governor and his staff "froze" because they feared how this tragedy "was going to be used against us." Then, after admitting a cover-up, DeRosa apologized. Not to the families who lost a loved one, but to Democrats, for being politically inconvenienced: "So we do apologize," she said. "I do understand the position that you were put in. I know that it is not fair. It was not our intention to put you in that political position with the Republicans."

The Governor just doesn't get it.

This isn't about a "political position." It's about human lives. It's about treating vulnerable

New Yorkers and their families with the dignity and respect they deserve.

Governor Cuomo has shown repeatedly that he should no longer wield unchecked, expanded emergency powers. He's violated our trust, undermined state and federal officials and lets his staff refer to the deaths of 15,000 seniors as a "political football."

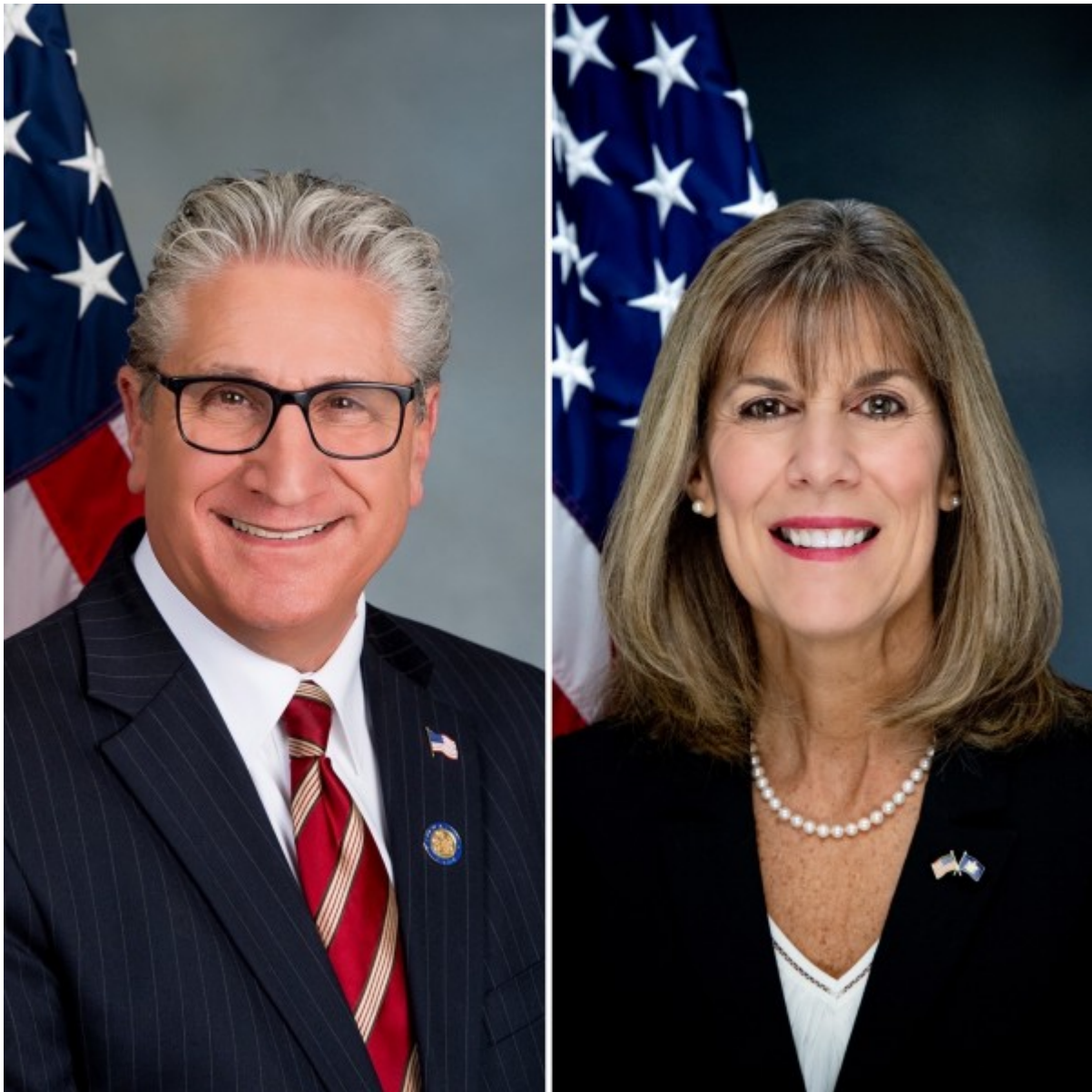
Our Senate Republican Conference has called for these powers to be revoked for months. And we've called for a full, independent investigation into the Governor's decision to place COVID-positive patients back into nursing homes and his cover-up. In addition, the Attorney General and federal Department of Justice have announced that they are conducting investigations, as they should, as I've been calling them to do for months now.

The families of the deceased deserve the truth. Governor Cuomo must be held accountable for his cynical, political treatment of our seniors and their loved ones. We will continue fighting to deliver that truth and implore Senate Democrats to share that same commitment.

This tragedy has gone on far too long. It must stop.

We must convene a special session and revoke the Governor's expanded powers and commence an independent investigation immediately.

Tedisco & Jordan: "Cuomo Lied and New Yorkers Paid and Died"



Earlier this week, I joined with my friend and colleague Senator Jim Tedisco in creating a criminal penalty for violating NY's open government/Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) to hold governors and top appointees personally accountable. Now, more than ever, there must be a thorough, independent investigation into this growing scandal so families can finally learn the truth and we can ensure that such a tragedy never happens again. Read our full press release [here](#).

Delivering some sunshine to a local nursing home



Thank you, Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce, and the Posie Peddler, in this wonderful effort to give primrose plants to residents who received their COVID-19 vaccine shots (pictured above)! I was honored to work with the Saratoga Hospital and the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce on the #IGotTheShot campaign! They are on the front lines of our war with COVID-19 and are now leading the way in getting us vaccinated.

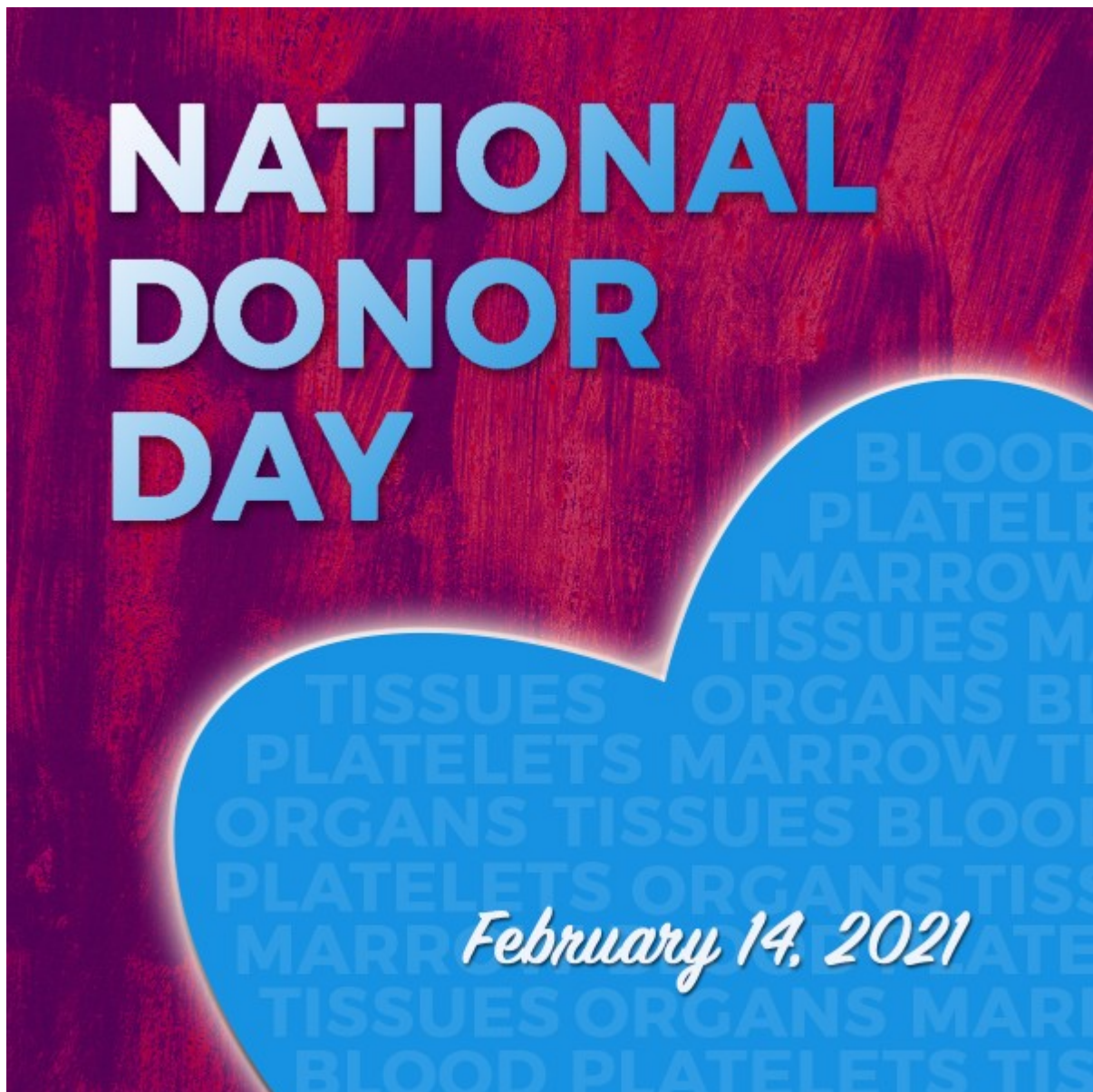
I know it's frustrating that the vaccine supplies are limited and that it's incredibly difficult to get an appointment, but when you can, I hope you will consider saying "yes." If you've been vaccinated, let us know and we'll get you an #IGotTheShot sticker.

Valentine's Day



This past Sunday was Valentine's Day, and I hope it was filled with lots of love! Regardless of if you have a significant other, we can always show more kindness and spread more love (especially when it involves chocolate)!

National Donor Day



This past Sunday was “National Donor Day,” which focuses on five points of life – organs, tissues, marrow, platelets, and blood. Becoming a donor is the simplest, most profound way to save a life. If you’re interested, visit the website for more information: organdonor.gov.

Presidents’ Day



This past Monday was “Presidents’ Day.” This holiday was first established in 1885 to celebrate George Washington and later expanded to honor every United States President. My favorite president is Ronald Reagan, who served as the 40th president from 1981 to 1989, and brought growth and optimism to Americans. God Bless the U.S.A.!

Delivering more real results: Overnight summer camps now opening

From: Press Office Press.Office@exec.ny.gov
Subject: GOVERNOR CUOMO ANNOUNCES INDOOR FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT CENTERS CAN OPEN MARCH 26, OUTDOOR AMUSEMENT PARKS CAN OPEN APRIL 9 & CAMPS CAN BEGIN TO PLAN FOR SUMMER OPENING
Date: Feb 17, 2021 at 1:02:49 PM
To: Caley Taratus caley@roffegroup.com



For Immediate Release: 2/17/2021

GOVERNOR ANDREW M. CUOMO

GOVERNOR CUOMO ANNOUNCES INDOOR FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT CENTERS CAN OPEN MARCH 26, OUTDOOR AMUSEMENT PARKS CAN OPEN APRIL 9 & CAMPS CAN BEGIN TO PLAN FOR SUMMER OPENING

25 Percent Capacity Limit in Indoor Family Entertainment Centers and Places of Amusement; 33 Percent Capacity Limit in Outdoor Amusement Parks

All Facilities Must Submit Reopening Plans with Health Protocols to Local Health Department

Face Coverings and Social Distancing Required for Customers and Staff; Health Screening with Temperature Checks Required for All Customers Prior to Entry

Day and Overnight Summer Camps Can Begin to Plan for Reopening; Department of Health Will Issue Guidance in the Coming Weeks

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today announced that indoor family entertainment centers and places of amusement can open with a 25 percent capacity limit beginning Friday, March 26. Outdoor amusement parks can open with a 33 percent capacity limit beginning Friday, April 9. All facilities must submit reopening plans with health protocols to the local health department. Face coverings and social distancing will be required for all customers and staff, and customers will be required to have a health screening with temperature checks prior to entry. Additionally, day and overnight summer camps in New York State can begin to plan for reopening. The Department of Health will issue specific reopening guidance, including details on timing, in the coming weeks.

"In New York, we base our decisions on the science and data and adjust as the virus

adjusts," **Governor Cuomo said.** "With continued decreases in the infection and hospitalization rates, we have been able to take steps toward beginning our post-COVID recovery and we are excited to now be in a place where we can bring back our recreational industries with safety protocols in place. As we've said time and time again, our success will be dictated by our actions and as long as we stay united and keep carrying this momentum forward in a positive direction, we will be able to see more and more sectors of our economy reopen." In addition to face coverings, social distancing and mandatory health screenings, all indoor family and entertainment centers and places of amusement, and outdoor amusement parks, must follow the below guidelines:

- Contact information must be collected from each party to inform contact tracing, if needed;
- High-touch areas, attractions, and rides must be cleaned and disinfected frequently throughout the day;
- Attractions must close if they cannot ensure distancing and be frequently cleaned/disinfected;
- Sufficient staff must be deployed to enforce compliance with rules, including capacity, distancing and face coverings;
- Tickets should be sold in advance, and entry/exit and waiting times should be staggered to avoid congestion;
- Indoor areas must meet enhanced air filtration, ventilation and purification standards; and
- Retail, food services and recreational activities must abide by all State-issued guidance.

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Additional news available at www.governor.ny.gov

New York State | Executive Chamber | press.office@exec.ny.gov | [518.474.8418](tel:518.474.8418)

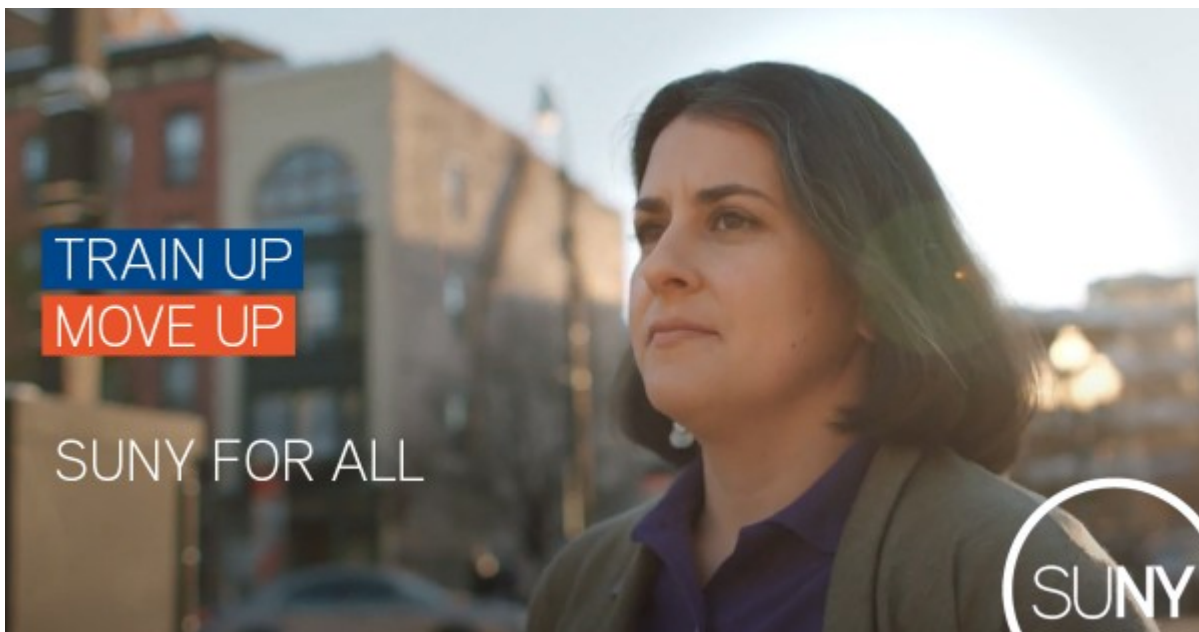
I also was thrilled that overnight summer camps can officially open for this season! Last week, I advocated for our summer camps, writing a letter to the Governor calling for them to be able to open for the summer of 2021.

Camp serves an invaluable role in children's positive social-emotional development. It's 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.

Summer camps operated safely in Maine and New Hampshire in 2020, and day camps statewide were allowed to resume operations effective June 29, 2020, and did so successfully. I am so happy that New York State's overnight summer camps are now afforded the same opportunity for the benefit of countless children who missed out on this experience last year.

You can read my recent letter advocating for overnight summer camps to reopen on my Senate website [by clicking here](#).

State University of New York workforce development opportunities



As a big supporter of workforce development programs, I'm pleased to share information about SUNY For All – a free skill-building and college prep program that's 100% online. It's convenient and can be accessed anytime, anywhere. Whether you need English as a second language, career development or support to further your academic journey, this program can help you get there and move you forward.

It also sets you on a path to earn a higher education by automatically enrolling you into any of SUNY's 30 Community Colleges, Empire State College or SUNY Canton on your own timetable. And you won't do this alone! SUNY will provide success coaches to ensure you complete each stage successfully. Visit the [link here](#) for more information, and if this doesn't apply to you, perhaps it does to someone you know.

Ending Governor Cuomo's emergency powers



After months of inexcusable inaction by the Senate and Assembly Democratic Majorities, there is finally an emerging bipartisan agreement to bring an end to Governor Cuomo's emergency powers. This would be an important breakthrough, as my Senate Republican

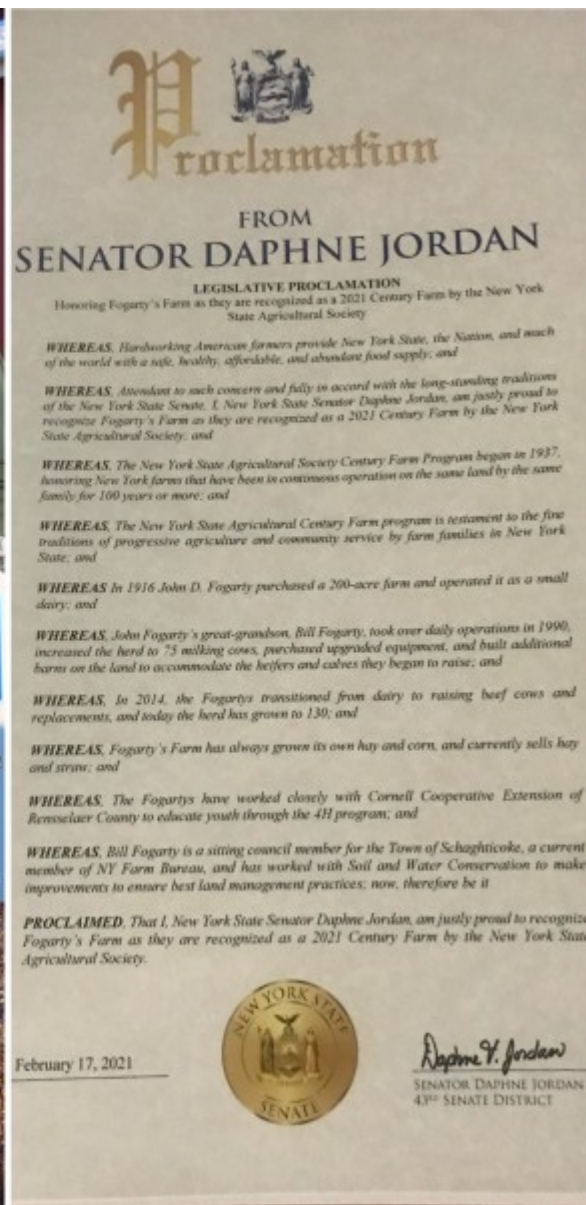
colleagues and I have consistently offered an amendment to remove the Governor's powers for nine straight months. For those long months, rescinding the Governor's emergency powers has been struck down by the Senate Democrats.

My colleagues and I have been fighting for answers, truth, and transparency this entire time. Now, with the bombshell report by the Attorney General released a few weeks ago, and the admittance by one of the Governor's top staffers that they were hiding information, are Senate Democrats distancing themselves as to not be associated with the scandal? Whether their motives are pure, or they are trying to save face, it appears New York is finally one-step closer to restoring the State Legislature as a co-equal branch of government.

However, at this moment, the Governor's emergency powers are still in place despite any statements or promises to revoke them by Senate Democrats. In other words, my colleagues and I will believe it when we see it happen.

When all is said and done, revoking the powers doesn't solve the root of the issue. The Governor and his administration must still be independently investigated top-to-bottom for their horrific cover-up of more than 15,000 nursing home deaths due to COVID and the Cuomo Administration's disastrous and deadly mandate. Families deserve answers and accountability!

Recognizing Fogarty's Farm



Wednesday afternoon, my Director of Constituent Services (and Rensselaer County Legislator) Dan Casale presented Councilman Bill Fogarty and his wife, Kathy, a New York State Senate Proclamation honoring the Fogarty's Farm in the Town of Schaghticoke. The NYS Agricultural Society recognizes Fogarty's Farm as their 2021 Century Farm, and we are lucky to have them in the 43rd District!

Remembering the life of a legend



On Wednesday, Rush Limbaugh, a true pioneer and giant of talk radio and conservatism, lost his battle to lung cancer at age 70. Rush was a true patriot who genuinely loved America. I joined millions of Americans in sending prayers to his wife, Kathryn, and family.

Rose Theresa Vumbaco: 100 years young



On Thursday, I was honored to recognize Rose Theresa Vumbaco (pictured above through the first-floor window at Van Rensselaer Manor) for her 100th birthday! Thank you to my staff who passed along my Senate Certificate of recognition to recognize this wonderful occasion!

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