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**SENATOR**  
**ANDREW S. GOUNARDES**  
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April 16, 2020

Senator Chuck Schumer  
Senator Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Rep. Anthony Brindisi  
Rep. Yvette Clark  
Rep. Alexandria Ocasio Cortez  
Rep. Antonio Delgado  
Rep. Eliot Engel  
Rep. Adriano Espaillat  
Rep. Brian Higgins  
Rep. Hakeem Jeffries  
Rep. John Katko

Rep. Peter King  
Rep. Nita Lowey  
Rep. Carolyn Maloney  
Rep. Sean Maloney  
Rep. Gregory Meeks  
Rep. Grace Meng  
Rep. Joseph Morelle  
Rep. Jerry Nadler  
Rep. Tom Reed

Rep. Kathleen Rice  
Rep. Max Rose  
Rep. José Serrano  
Rep. Elise Stefanik  
Rep. Thomas Suozzi  
Rep. Paul Tonko  
Rep. Nydia Velázquez  
Rep. Lee Zeldin

United States House of Representatives  
Ford House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Members of the New York Congressional Delegation:

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of New Yorkers and working people across the country in the Coronavirus response. As you consider the phase four of the Coronavirus relief bill, we write to express our strong support for the proposed plan for a robust Heroes Fund to provide hazard pay for essential workers on the front lines of this pandemic. The proposal of Senate Democrats to provide a \$13/hour raise for up to \$25,000 for those making under \$200,000 and \$5,000 for those making over \$200,000 would make a big difference in the lives of hardworking first responders and essential workers taking great risks to continue their vital jobs and keep society functioning.

In fact, we urge you to consider ways to make this fund **even more generous** for states such as New York that face widespread outbreak, where our EMS workers, transit workers, NYPD, FDNY, grocery store workers, nursing home workers, restaurant workers, janitors, home health aides, journalists and more have been exposed at much higher rates than anywhere else in the nation. These Heroes Funds benefits must be extended to any gig or freelance workers serving an essential role, including delivery workers, freelance journalists/photojournalists and drivers.

These essential workers are dealing not just with extreme risk to themselves and their families but also massive mental health effects that are sure to come from being on the front lines. They deserve and need substantial hazard pay to compensate them for the enormous risks and extreme difficulties of the jobs they are undertaking.

We wish to add our strong support to this initiative and urge you to fight hard for New York's essential workers who are putting their lives on the line every day to ensure our City and State continue to function despite the devastation of Covid-19.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew S. Gounardes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

Andrew S. Gounardes  
Member of Senate