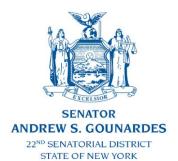
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ALBANY OFFICE: ROOM 902 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING ALBANY, NY 12247 OFFICE: 518-455-3270

## DISTRICT OFFICE:

8018 5TH AVE. BROOKLYN, NY 11209 OFFICE: (718) 238-6044

e-mail: gounardes@nysenate.gov

April 16, 2020

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

Rep. Anthony Brindisi	Rep. Peter King	Rep. Kathleen Rice
Rep. Yvette Clark	Rep. Nita Lowey	Rep. Max Rose
Rep. Alexandria Ocasio Cortez	Rep. Carolyn Maloney	Rep. José Serrano
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Rep. Hakeem Jeffries	Rep. Jerry Nadler	Rep. Lee Zeldin
Rep. John Katko	Rep. Tom Reed	

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,

Andrew S. Gounardes

Member of Senate