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THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



SENATOR
ANTHONY H. PALUMBO
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TO: The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

FROM: Senator Anthony Palumbo
28 N Country Rd #203,
Mt Sinai, NY 11766

Dear Governor Cuomo,

As we write to you today, another business on Long Island is on the verge of closing its doors forever. The COVID-19 Pandemic and subsequent economic shutdown has had a severe impact on most small businesses throughout Long Island and has hit our restaurants and entertainment industries particularly hard.

Unfortunately, another industry in our region is on the verge of permanent closure— ice rinks. While they are used all year, December- February are their busiest seasons. Revenue generated in these months helps to carry them throughout the year. Most of their revenue comes from ice hockey games and currently, New York State is not allowing games to be played.

To help our ice rinks remain open we are formally requesting that you recategorize youth ice hockey from ‘high’ to ‘moderate’ risk and allow non-checking games to take place on Long Island. It is important to note that roller hockey is presently permitted to play non-checking games in New York so long as they abide by the guidelines.

Currently, many of the region’s ice rinks follow state recommendations and have implemented protocols for safe play, which include: **wearing masks at all times, no checking, limiting the number of players on a team and limiting spectators.**

Due to the ice rinks’ adherences to New York State’s safety measures, none of our ice rinks have had to shut down due to COVID 19 exposure or outbreak.

Long Island’s ice rinks are being economically decimated without the ability to play games. Without this simple change, many rinks will be forced to close permanently, so immediate action is necessary.

To help keep Long Island’s ice rinks open and save an important part of Long Island’s athletic traditions, we respectfully request that you recategorize youth ice hockey from ‘high’ to ‘moderate’ risk and allow non-check youth ice hockey games in harmony with the guidelines that allow for roller hockey games to be played.

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Respectfully yours,



Anthony Palumbo
Senator, 1st District



Mario Mattera
Senator, 2nd District



Phil Boyle
Senator, 4th District



Alexis Weik
Senator, 3rd District