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THE SENATE
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January 27, 2023

Senator James Skoufis
Senate Investigations and Government Operations Committee Chair
Legislative Office Building
Room 815
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Senator Skoufis:

I write to follow up on my prior requests for you to utilize your authority as Chair of the State Senate Investigations Committee to issue subpoenas to help determine whether Governor Hochul engaged in a pay-to-play scheme when her administration granted a \$637 million state contract to Digital Gadgets.

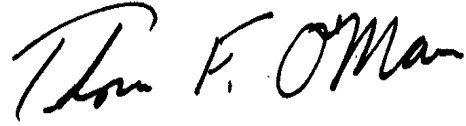
As you know, the Governor's Administration suspended Comptroller oversight of state contracts and used emergency authority to purchase overpriced COVID-19 test kits from the company which is owned by a donor who provided more than \$300,000 in campaign donations to the Governor's gubernatorial campaign. While the Governor has denied having direct involvement in the deal, this week, [public reports](#) contradict that, revealing email evidence that shows Governor Hochul may have discussed Covid-19 tests with Digital Gadgets Owner, Charlie Tebele at a political fundraiser he held for her at his home.

In previous correspondence to you dated September 22, 2022, I outlined the various reasons why such an investigation would fall under the purview of this committee. In light of this latest development, it is critical that you utilize your authority under Section 62-A of the Legislative Law to issue subpoenas to get to the bottom of how this deal came to fruition.

As legislators, we have a duty to protect taxpayer dollars and investigate any suspected misuse. While I understand that your conference would prefer to [take the Governor at her word](#), New York taxpayers deserve transparency and accountability when it comes to how their hard earned dollars are utilized by the state. With New York paying 45% more for these tests than other states paid, it is not acceptable to simply blame the timing of the purchase.

For these reasons, I urge you to do the right thing and help us restore public trust by immediately launching an investigation into this critical issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom F. O'Mara". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Senator Thomas F. O'Mara