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STATE OF NEW YORK



GEORGE M. BORRELLO
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February 9, 2021

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Executive Chamber
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

In light of recent revelations concerning the Health Department's deliberate undercounting of nursing home residents who died from COVID-19, I am writing to ask you to consider donating the proceeds of your recent book to elder advocacy organizations.

The Attorney General's January 28 report confirmed what many legislators, watchdogs and families had suspected, which is that key details and data on the department's handling of the crisis in our nursing homes were shielded from public scrutiny. New Yorkers, particularly our older residents, have been left feeling confused and misled by this turn of events.

While decisions made months ago cannot be undone, I believe that a small step towards bridging the gulf of public mistrust that now exists would be for you to donate the proceeds of your recent book, "American Crisis," to elder advocacy organization, the Center for Elder Law and Justice in Western New York (CELJ) and other elder-focused non-profits across the state.

Philanthropy dedicated to helping our senior citizens would recognize their importance to our state and the tragic reality that they have suffered disproportionately during the pandemic. Here in Western New York alone, more than half of the 2,045 COVID-related fatalities were nursing home residents.

When the book was released in October, you indicated that you would donate a portion of the proceeds to COVID relief. However, as no further information on the donation amounts or beneficiaries has been provided, I am hopeful that you will consider and act on my suggestion. The terrible toll of COVID on this group of New Yorkers has been exacerbated by a state government that has appeared indifferent to their concerns. A commitment of funds from your book on the crisis would be an important conciliatory overture.

Your consideration of this request is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "George M. Borrello".

Senator George M. Borrello
57th District