



October 26, 2018

Hon. Andrew Cuomo
Governor, New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

We write to respectfully request that you fill at least one of the two vacancies on New York State Department of Health's Public Health and Health Planning Council (PHHPC) with consumer advocates who can provide a perspective on issues affecting healthcare consumers based on personal or professional consumer advocacy experience.

PHHPC has enormous power and responsibility with respect to the public health and health care delivery system. The State must provide consumers a voice in the major decisions that affect them to ensure the system appropriately meets their needs.

While the current council represents diverse viewpoints, it has no members who represent the consumer view. The consumer advocate seat has been vacant for over a year. By contrast, there are eight representatives of hospitals, health systems and nursing homes -- twice the number of "at least four" specified in the Public Health Law.

In addition, PHHPC holds its meetings at times when members of the public are not likely to attend. PHHPC often does not hear from health consumers or public health advocates before advising the commissioner. This makes it especially important that consumer advocates be on the council.

The swift appointment of at least one consumer advocate, and preferably two, to PHHPC will help the council do its vital work with efficacy and fairness.

Thank you for the consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Brad Hoylman
State Senator

Harvey Epstein
Assembly Member

Dick Gottfried
Assembly Member

Carolyn Maloney
Member of Congress

Jerrold L. Nadler
Member of Congress

Nydia Velázquez
Member of Congress



Corey Johnson
NYC Council Speaker



Brian Kavanagh
State Senator



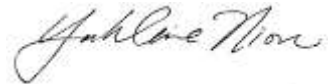
Liz Krueger
State Senator



Gustavo Rivera
State Senator



Deborah J. Glick
Assembly Member



Yuh-Line Niou
Assembly Member



Amy R. Paulin
Assembly Member



Linda Rosenthal
Assembly Member



James Skoufis
Assembly Member



Margaret Chin
NYC Council Member



Carlina Rivera
NYC Council Member