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SENATOR MARIO R. MATTERA  
2<sup>ND</sup> SENATE DISTRICT

February 5, 2021

Honorable Steve Bellone  
Suffolk County Executive  
H. Lee Dennison Building  
100 Veterans Memorial Highway  
Hauppauge, New York 11788

Dear County Executive Bellone:

As our County, State and Nation continue to fight the battle against COVID-19, it is so important that we constantly strive to bring a sense of normalcy to our youngest residents; in that regard I would like to thank you for bringing sports back for our kids. Our youth who participate in sports had added loss with the absence of one of their biggest outlets and that has affected many of them greatly. These young men and women have waited for their chance to get back on their respective competitive fields, alongside their teammates and friends, and this policy change will allow them that opportunity.

I am now reaching out to you on behalf of Suffolk County parents to highlight the fact that they are currently restricted from watching their children participate in these now-permitted sporting events. This seems to be a policy disagreement between the Health Department of Suffolk County and that of the Governor's COVID-19 requirements, which were modified on February 1, 2021, as to the health and safety issues around this policy.

This policy of allowing spectators is delineated in the State plan and Nassau County is allowing for two spectators per player for indoor sports and outdoor sports requires those of different families to maintain the six feet of social distances. It is incongruous for the two Counties to have such different rules when many times there are cross matches of schools from each county competing against the other.

I believe it is incumbent upon our elected officials to stand together and adopt the same rules in our two Counties while still adhering to the necessary safety protocols.

Our residents have displayed an amazing sense of resiliency throughout this crisis and have clearly demonstrated their ability to endure the many hardships that have befallen many of them. Now it is within your power to ease some of the burden they have been facing and it is my hope that you will immediately move to do so.

I thank you for your attention to this matter that is so important to our entire County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mario R. Mattera", written over a white background.

Mario R. Mattera

