

NEW YORK
STATE
SENATE

ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247



September 15, 2021

Honorable Kathleen C. Hochul, Governor
New York State
Executive Chamber
NY State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul:

We are jointly writing to you on behalf of the thousands of healthcare workers who are about to be forced out of their jobs due to their strong and personal opposition to the vaccine mandate. While we all are cognizant of the seriousness of the ongoing crisis, it is simply unacceptable that we are now forcing our unsung heroes of the pandemic to choose between going against their beliefs or losing their careers.

If New York State proceeds with this policy, we will be facing a healthcare crisis of unprecedented proportions if all unvaccinated healthcare workers are forced to leave the posts they have bravely manned since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Equally important, we will be turning our backs on those we collectively heralded as heroes just a short time ago. That is simply not the New York way and we need to work together to find a new, fairer approach.

To simply mandate the vaccinations at the expense of patient care is not only counterproductive but also a slap in the face to those providers who came to work every single day while the rest of the state was mandated to stay at home.

We, collectively and strongly, urge you to re-evaluate the mandate and allow regular testing in lieu of the current policy in order to preserve the staffing of our health care facilities and protect the rights of these hardworking men and women. This approach would protect our residents while respecting those who have been there for our communities throughout the past 18 months.

It is ironic that New York State approved safe staffing legislation, which we all supported in the New York State Senate, only three months ago and now we are putting the staffing of our healthcare facilities in jeopardy. The time for a more commonsense approach is now and you must revisit this mandate as expeditiously as possible to protect our healthcare heroes, our residents and our future.

Your prompt response to this pending disaster is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Mario R. Mattera in black ink.

Mario R. Mattera
Member of the Senate

Handwritten signature of Alexis Weik in black ink.

Alexis Weik
Member of the Senate

Handwritten signature of Phil Boyle in black ink.

Phil Boyle
Member of the Senate

Handwritten signature of Anthony H. Palumbo in black ink.

Anthony H. Palumbo
Member of the Senate