



March 19, 2020

Robert R. Redfield, MD
Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Rd, Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Director Redfield:

Recently, members of the Brooklyn Congressional and State Delegations were briefed by SUNY Downstate President Dr. Wayne Riley on SUNY Downstate's response to the COVID-19 crisis and related impacts on our borough. The focus of this briefing was Downstate's current capacity to test for COVID-19. Recognizing that Brooklyn is the largest borough in New York City with 2.6 million residents – and many of them with high rates of asthma, diabetes and other conditions which put them in higher risk categories – we are writing to request your assistance in developing in-borough testing capacity.

Our understanding is that SUNY Downstate is prepared to move forward with on-site testing – with personnel and certifications already in-hand – but that they will require a COBAS 6800 testing machine, which is subject to the Center for Disease Control allocation strategy. This equipment is critical to the borough's and Downstate's needs and it would allow more than 1,500 tests a day to begin being processed in Brooklyn. Further, we understand that Downstate is also prepared to develop a drive thru testing site, which we believe is also critically important and timely.

Director Redfield, as the representatives for Downstate and surrounding neighborhoods across Brooklyn, we remain available to you and your team to assist in any way possible with bringing on-site testing to our borough and we look forward to learning more about potential next steps.

Sincerely,

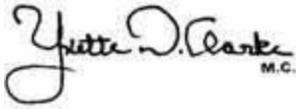


Senator Zellnor Myrie



Assemblymember Diana Richardson

and the undersigned:



Congressmember Yvette
Clarke



Congressmember Nydia
Velazquez



Congressmember Jerold
Nadler



Congressmember Hakeem
Jeffries



State Senator Diane Savino



State Senator Simcha Felder



State Senator Julia Salazar



State Senator Andrew
Gounardes



State Senator Brian
Kavanaugh

*State Senator Velmanette
Montgomery*

State Senator Kevin Parker

*State Senator Roxane
Persaud*

*Assemblymember N. Nick
Perry*

*Assemblymember Charles
Barron*

Assemblymember Felix Ortiz

*Assemblymember Joseph
Lentol*

*Assemblymember Latrice
Walker*

*Assemblymember Jo Anne
Simon*

*Assemblymember Helene
Weinstein*

*Assemblymember Walter
Mosley*

*Assemblymember Peter J.
Abbate, Jr.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mathilde Frontus". The signature is stylized with large, overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

*Assemblymember Mathilde
Frontus*

Cc: Governor Andrew Cuomo