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NEW YORK
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SENATOR DAPHNE JORDAN
43RD SENATE DISTRICT

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June 10, 2020

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

I write on behalf of Kathy Scherer, owner of Go-For Fitness, located in South Glens Falls, which is in my 43rd Senate District. Ms. Scherer contacted me asking for my assistance and advocacy in helping her beloved boutique fitness facility receive a state waiver to reopen.

Ms. Scherer's business has operated in the community for six years and was closed upon the issuance of your New York on PAUSE initiative back in March. Since that time, Ms. Scherer's business has lost a significant amount of income which has caused economic hardship for her. Many of Ms. Scherer's clients have asked for the facility to reopen so they may resume their health and wellness routines. Ms. Scherer's Go-For Fitness facility is 3,300 square feet and has class sizes of less than 10. With such a small group size, and so much space, Ms. Scherer can easily implement social distancing requirements, and adhere to CDC and NYSDOH best sanitary practices for cleaning, disinfecting, and the use of facemasks by clients and facility staff. The facility does not utilize equipment, so there is much less to sanitize.

Ms. Scherer spoke with ESD Regional Director Mike Yevoli a month ago and was told that despite her large facility and small class sizes she would not be afforded the requested opportunity to reopen. In the interim, Ms. Scherer continues losing income and her business continues losing revenue as she, and many others, have no definitive timetable for when Phase IV (recreational facility reopening) will happen, although COVID-19 infections, hospitalizations, and mortality in New York are thankfully at their lowest levels since the outbreak began.

Governor, on Monday you rode the New York City Subway in a publicized, good-faith effort to show that it was safe for all New Yorkers. Frankly, if the New York City Subway – a largely underground, fully enclosed structure utilized by nearly to six million people in close quarters daily – is safe to reopen, then Go-For Fitness, a small, boutique fitness facility in South Glens Falls with classes sizes of 10 or less, is certainly safe to do likewise. I am asking ESD to recognize that Ms. Scherer's small business, like so many, is struggling because of the shutdown and offer her a special wavier so she may safely reopen before she incurs more financial losses, potentially losing her business and her life's work. This same waiver should be afforded to other small, boutique fitness facilities as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daphne H. Jordan".

Daphne Jordan
State Senator, 43rd District

Cc: Mike Yevoli, ESD Regional Director