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March 2, 2021

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

Re: Dutchess County Vaccine Site and Distribution

Dear Governor Cuomo:

As you know, all of our offices continue to be flooded with calls and emails from residents who are struggling to make appointments to receive COVID-19 vaccines. Today, we respectfully write to request that you immediately partner with Dutchess County to provide for a joint COVID vaccination distribution site between the State and the County at the former JCPenney store at the Poughkeepsie Galleria to address the disparity in vaccine access facing those in the Mid-Hudson region.

Last week, the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health distributed approximately 1,200 vaccinations. However, it is our understanding that the County could effectively distribute between 5,000 and 7,000 vaccine doses each week. Further, not only would this location provide easier access to the residents of Dutchess County and the Mid-Hudson Valley, it would enable the County to coordinate local vaccination pop-up sites in the north, south and east ends of Dutchess, which are drastically underserved within the state's current distribution plan.

Many of our constituents would need to travel over 100 miles to make it to an appointment at one of the two closest state-operated vaccination sites, which are located in Albany and Westchester counties. Traveling such a distance is impossible for many of our neighbors, especially for senior residents who already face tremendous challenges in even securing an appointment.


Additionally, while we would like to reiterate the call for a centralized vaccination appointment system that would accept appointments electronically and over the phone, short of that, we respectfully ask that in addition to establishing a joint operated site with Dutchess County, that the State partners with the County to establish appropriate measures to prevent seniors and others who may have difficulty scheduling appointments online from being left behind. Dutchess County has been taking proactive steps to ensure those

without Internet access can still utilize their notification system that informs residents when an appointment is available to them, and by partnering with the State they can further ensure equitable access to the vaccine.

As we approach the anniversary of the declared state disaster emergency, residents are eager to do what they can to protect themselves and their loved ones, and enabling all who want a vaccine to have access to appointments is a crucial step in that effort. New Yorkers across the State are in this fight together, and it is essential that no region is left behind in any of the State's efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

We appreciate your attention to this matter, and we look forward to working together to ensure an equitable distribution of vaccine doses to combat this public health crisis.

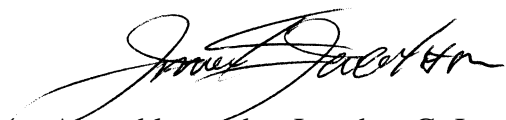
Sincerely,



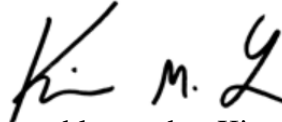
Senator Sue Serino
41st District



Assemblymember Didi Barrett
106th District



Assemblymember Jonathan G. Jacobson
104th District



Assemblymember Kieran Michael Lalor
105th District