



NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE

February 24, 2021

Hon. Letitia James
Attorney General of the State of New York
Office of the Attorney General
State Capitol
Albany, New York 12224-0341

Dear Attorney General James:

We write to request a formal investigation into the allegations of abusive, sexist and harassing behavior of Governor Andrew Cuomo toward a female employee while she served as a staff member of the Executive Chamber and at the Empire State Development (ESD). While the Joint Commission on Public Ethics (JCOPE) has become just another extension of the Governor's control and has a history of concerning conflicts in its investigations into the Executive Branch, we request the immediate appointment of a Special Prosecutor to conduct this investigation.

In a publically released blog post issued by the alleged victim on February 24, the former employee asserted, "Andrew Cuomo abused his power as Governor to sexually harass me, just as he had done with so many other women." She goes on to assert that confidential personnel information was "leaked to the media in an effort to smear me," and that "the Governor's loyalists called around town asking about me."

In addition to investigating the alleged actions and behavior of the Governor toward female staff members, this investigation should also include a review of the alleged actions taken by Executive Chamber staff members and "loyalists" to try and intimidate the alleged victim and other women into remaining silent.

Among the public assertions made by this former government official:

"Governor Andrew Cuomo has created a culture within his administration where sexual harassment and bullying is so pervasive that it is not only condoned but expected."

"There are many more of us, but most are too afraid to speak up."

If these allegations are true, the actions of the Governor and his staff are not only grossly inappropriate -- they are also potentially criminal in nature. At a minimum, the seriousness of these allegations clearly warrant a comprehensive, immediate investigation by an independent Special Prosecutor.

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Thank you for your immediate attention to this critically important matter.

Sincerely,



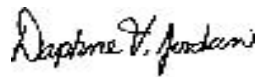
Patricia Ritchie
Senator



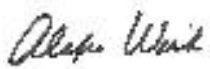
Susan Serino
Senator



Pamela Helming
Senator



Daphne Jordan
Senator



Alexis Weik
Senator