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NEW YORK
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SENATOR DAPHNE JORDAN
43RD SENATE DISTRICT

ALBANY OFFICE
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 508
ALBANY, NY 12247
(518) 455-2381

DISTRICT OFFICE
1580 COLUMBIA TURNPIKE
BLDG. 2, STE. 1
CASTLETON ON HUDSON, NY 12033

July 7, 2020

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

Dear Governor Cuomo:

We write concerning your recently issued Executive Order No. 205: “*Quarantine Restrictions on Travelers Arriving in New York*” and call attention to your mandate’s real-world impact on the courageous men and women of our military returning home from training or the performance of their official duties.

Your Executive Order No. 205 mandates that anyone entering New York from one of 16 designated states (Alabama; Arkansas; Arizona; California; Florida; Georgia; Iowa; Idaho; Louisiana; Mississippi; North Carolina; Nevada; South Carolina; Tennessee; Texas and Utah, respectively) to quarantine for 14 days unless taking part or engaging in responsibilities as a first responder/essential worker upon their entry or return to New York (or meet some other exemption, i.e., if the individual were in one of those states for less than 24 hours).

Thus, as mandated by your Executive Order, National Guard troops from New York State taking part in military training in South Carolina that return home must quarantine unless they are continuing National Guard duties while in New York or are in some other way an “essential worker” in their regular jobs.

The reality of your quarantine requirement is causing undue hardship for members of our military and their families. Case in point, an Airman hailing from the 43rd Senate District and stationed in Texas was recently denied an opportunity by your administration to return to New York for his beloved grandfather’s funeral in Upstate due to your Executive Order.

After long, grueling training periods away from their families, New York’s patriots deserve to be welcomed back to civilian and professional life, not sequestered into a mandatory 14-day quarantine because they trained in a certain state. As you will recall, at the height of New York’s COVID crisis, which our National Guard so bravely and effectively responded to, our state had three times the rate of Coronavirus cases as the threshold set for your recent travel quarantine. Without question, the men and women of our military deserve the same freedoms as all New Yorkers and the state should take every appropriate step to ensure their safe, timely re-entry.

Accordingly, we call upon your administration to immediately begin COVID-19 testing for every military troop transport plane when it lands in New York State and provide for expedited results.

As you have often alluded to during your press conferences, New York has emerged as a leader in testing capacity, so the State Department of Health should already have the necessary supplies ready to test returning military members immediately upon their arrival. As your quarantine mandate was a state order, New York State should, of course, pick up all costs associated with testing or any lost work.

Thank you in advance for your attention to our request made on behalf of the courageous men and women of America's armed forces who are returning home to New York State.

Sincerely,



Daphne Jordan
State Senator, 43rd District



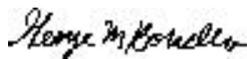
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State Senator, 54th District



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Betty Little
State Senator, 45th District



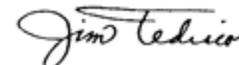
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