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**THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK**



ROBERT G. ORTT
SENATOR, 62ND DISTRICT

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September 25, 2018

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

Dear Governor Cuomo:

I write today with grave concerns over recent reports by the Jonathan Carey foundation identifying over twenty-five Level 2 and 3 sex offenders who reside in group homes overseen by the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD). While OPWDD is tasked with providing services to individuals with developmental disabilities, it also has a statutory and legal requirement to protect these vulnerable individuals from harm. I hope we can agree that government's overarching aim should be to provide services that protect recipients from harm.

This year the Senate once again showed its leadership on preventing abuse by passing two pieces of legislation that would protect our most vulnerable New Yorkers. Senator Ranzenhofer's bill, S.3027, passed for the fifth consecutive year and would prohibit sex offenders, who are required to be registered pursuant to the Corrections Law, from residing in a community residence. Senator Gallivan's bill, S.2132, passed for the fourth consecutive year and would require that when a sex offender is transferred to a community program or residence, the Commissioner must notify the chief executive officer of any municipality where the transfer was made and the superintendent of schools in which such facility is located. I would call on you to either implement these policies regulatorily or come out in public support of these bills aimed at protecting both our vulnerable population and other impacted communities.

Thank you for consideration of these legislative proposals. I am hopeful that we can work collectively to put forth policies to protect vulnerable New Yorkers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert G. Ortt", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert G. Ortt
Senator, 62nd District