

THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK



SENATOR  
**JEREMY A. COONEY**  
56<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

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**Chair**  
Cities 2  
**Committees**  
Codes  
Cultural Affairs, Tourism, Parks and  
Recreation  
Higher Education  
Insurance  
Procurement and Contracts  
Transportation

Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of the State of New York  
Albany, New York 12248

April 14, 2021

Dear Governor Cuomo:

As the chair of the Senate's new Cities 2 Committee, focused on cities outside of New York City, I am writing in response to Executive Orders 202.74 and 202.94, which limit the hours of operation for New York restaurants and bars. I am writing to request that any continuance or modification of these orders going forward does not include any limits on *hours of operation*. These establishments are critical to maintaining the quality of life for our urban residents and workforces.

Recently, the Department of Health extended Executive Order 202.94 to May 6, 2021. This news was disappointing to restaurant and bar owners who have struggled to keep their establishments open, leading to financial hardship for their employees during the pandemic. I am proud to have voted for a budget that included millions of dollars in restaurant resilience funding, but more is needed. Allowing these establishments to extend their hours to locally permitted limits will increase revenues and rehiring. Moreover, warmer weather increases opportunities for businesses to attract patrons for outdoor dining and to create more local jobs.

Reducing further spread of the virus must remain our first priority as we safely work to reopen New York. We will still require that businesses follow safety guidelines provided by the CDC, such as social distancing and mask-wearing. It is my understanding that the hours of operation for restaurants and bars will not increase the health risk, as long as these other safety measures continue to be enforced.

Thank you for your consideration, and please contact me at (518) 455-2909 if I can offer additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeremy A. Cooney".

Jeremy A. Cooney  
NYS Senator, 56th District