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**JAMES N. TEDISCO  
Senator, 49th District**

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April 2, 2021

Howard Zucker MD, JD , Commissioner  
New York State Department of Health  
Corning Tower  
Empire State Plaza  
Albany, NY 12237

Dear Commissioner Zucker:

I am writing to request that your office provide schools and colleges in New York State full and updated guidance and protocols so that they can hold graduation ceremonies, proms and other end-of-the-school-year gatherings. The provision of this information by the Department of Health(DOH) should take place immediately so that schools and colleges can maximize their time and ability to pursue these efforts working alongside local public health officials.

Given that other venues such as football and baseball stadiums, arts and entertainment, and other large gathering arenas have been allowed to operate with restrictions, it seems appropriate that our schools and colleges be given the same ability to hold important functions such as graduations. Many schools have contacted my office and been very vocal about the need for updated and complete guidance so they can faithfully hold these important events over the next few months in the upcoming graduation season. As I'm sure you can appreciate, these types of celebrations require careful planning, even more so now during the pandemic. It's essential that our schools and colleges have ample time to appropriately plan for these annual rites of passage.

I respectfully request that the DOH publicly announces appropriate graduation and end-of-the-school-year guidelines and safety protocols for gatherings as soon as possible, ideally no later than April 15<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Tedisco".

James N. Tedisco  
49<sup>th</sup> Senate District