



NEW YORK STATE SENATE

May 27, 2020

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

Dear Governor Cuomo:

Thank you for your strong, science-based leadership through this very challenging time. You have led us to this moment of new opportunity, and we are deeply grateful. Now, as the State moves forward on reopening and residents embrace new circumstances regarding social gatherings, we believe New York State can find a way to allow our high school seniors to participate in graduation ceremonies outdoors and in-person. We urge you to allow New York's school districts to safely hold high school graduations outdoors and in person in July, by maintaining social distancing and following public health guidelines set by the Department of Health. We were heartened to learn that New Jersey's Governor Murphy has allowed such an effort to go forward in that state. We hope that you will exercise your leadership and permit such gatherings under specified conditions.

The high school graduating class of 2020 should be permitted to embrace their achievements, celebrate their successes and be fully recognized as they embark on the next chapter of their lives. The relationships students have developed with their schools, teachers and peers will forever be grounded in their hearts and we know you share with us a commitment to find a way for them to celebrate their final high school moment in a traditional, ceremonious manner.

We are confident a safe, carefully managed outdoor and in person high school graduation can be achieved in New York, during the month of July, and under guidance set by the Department of Health. We urge you to find a way to allow this to happen.

Sincerely,

Shelley B. Mayer
John Liu
Rachel May
Joseph Addabbo
Alessandra Biaggi
Toby Stavisky
Roxanne Persaud

Todd Kaminsky
Monica Martinez
James Skoufis
Jen Metzger
Leroy Comrie
Kevin Thomas
Jamaal Bailey
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Peter Harckham
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cc: Melissa DeRosa
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