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**THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK**



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

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July 28, 2020

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
Executive Chamber  
New York State Capitol  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

I am respectfully writing to request an in-depth, thorough and complete accounting for all nursing home-related deaths in New York State since the beginning of the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic.

Nursing home directives have resulted in disparities statewide in the reporting of the deaths of residents. For example, in March 2020, the statewide protocol was that nursing homes report ONLY residents that died within the four walls of skilled nursing facilities as COVID-19-related deaths.

However, this directive did not take into account those that contracted COVID-19 while in a nursing home but then got transferred and passed away at a hospital. This policy, which is unique to our state, wildly skews the amount of deaths and is in contrast with the statistics the federal Centers for Disease Control are reporting. While there are sometimes disparities in the way information is processed between the state and the federal governments, analysis by outside experts demonstrate that there are major inconsistencies that need to be addressed.

As the state continues to evaluate what happened during the peak of the pandemic and prepare for the future, it is vital that accurate information is publicly reported so we can save future lives in the event of a second wave of the virus or another pandemic. I ask that your Administration, as soon as possible, provide this full breakdown of data since the beginning of the pandemic regarding all those that passed away from contracting COVID-19 in nursing homes, and those who because of severe illness were forced to be taken to and lost their lives at a hospital.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Tedisco".

Senator Jim Tedisco

Cc: Senator Gustavo Rivera, Chair of Senate Committee on Health  
Senator James Skoufis, Chair of Senate Committee on Investigations