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STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

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Committee

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Aging
Children and Families
Local Governments
Tourism, Parks, Arts and
Sports Development

Governor Kathy Hochul
Executive Chamber
NYS Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

We are writing to request that mandatory masking requirements for students not be implemented by your administration on a statewide basis. Masking decisions must be left up to local school districts to implement based on what they decide is best following an open decision-making process that includes local students and parents.

New York state prides itself on the quality of our schools, striving to be the best in the nation. However, we have fallen behind other states in returning to normal, especially in the classroom. Our students have suffered through two consecutive school years that have been uncertain due to the pandemic. Unfortunately, under the administration of your predecessor, this uncertainty was unduly heightened by quick decisions that never followed the science. This one-size-fits-all approach to New York schools put additional stress on our students and families during an already unprecedented time.

Our local school districts are well equipped to work within their communities to give our children a quality education and have been doing so for a very long time. The top-down approach from the Governor's office has not worked and must come to an end with the end of the previous administration.

New York is a vast and diverse state. You know, as well as we do, that the issues that New Yorkers face are different in every region and it has been more evident than ever in the case of the COVID-19 pandemic. Each school district is unique, and they must be allowed to have local control over their own schools. That is why we are asking you not to implement a statewide school mask mandate.

Thank you for your consideration on this important issue and listening to our concerns. We are hopeful that the long-standing history of local oversight of schools is maintained this year so our students can be provided with the best education they rightfully deserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Gallahan".

Jeff Gallahan
Member of Assembly
131st District



Jodi Giglio
Member of Assembly
District 2



Karl Brabenec
Member of Assembly
District 98



Jarett Gandolfo
Member of Assembly
District 7



Colin Schmitt
Member of Assembly
District 99



Michael Durso
Member of Assembly
District 9




Chris Tague
Member of Assembly
District 102



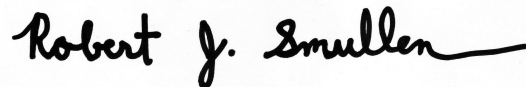
David G. McDonough
Member of Assembly
District 14



Jake Ashby
Member of Assembly
District 107



John K. Mikulin
Member of Assembly
District 17



Robert Smullen
Member of Assembly
District 118



Mike Lawler
Member of Assembly
District 97



John Salka
Member of Assembly
District 121



Joe Angelino
Member of Assembly
District 122



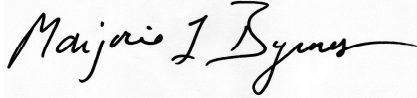
Michael J. Norris
Member of Assembly
District 144



John Lemondes
Member of Assembly
District 126



Andy Goodell
Member of Assembly
District 150



Marjorie Byrnes
Member of Assembly
District 133