



MARY BETH WALSH
Assemblywoman 112th District

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STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

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July 16, 2021

Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
New York State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

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

Dear Governor Cuomo & Commissioner Zucker:

We write to you today on behalf of the hundreds of recent EMT and Paramedic graduates from throughout New York State who are unable to work due to unintended consequences relating to the expiration of the Governor's Emergency Orders on June 24, 2021.

As you know, before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, New York State Department of Health (DOH) contracted with PSI, a national testing vendor, who administered paper and pencil final exams for EMTs and Paramedics at the end of their courses. During the pandemic, PSI struggled to get the exams converted to computer-based exams that could be administered in their testing centers using proper social distancing for students. As a result, DOH offered an alternative which allowed graduates to instead take the readily available National Registry for EMTs examinations, a certification process that is currently used by all other states *except* New York. Ultimately, many chose this option and due to the flexibility permitted by the Executive Order, DOH was able to immediately grant New York State certification.

Unfortunately, several hundred EMTs and Paramedics who graduated in June subsequently registered for, and passed, the National Registry test but with the expiration of the EO, the DOH EMS Bureau is unable to issue their certifications and they cannot work.

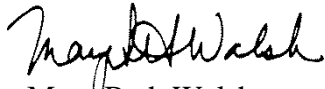
The DOH Bureau of EMS has expressed to local EMS agencies that emergency regulations are being drafted to reinstate the option of using the National Registry exams for EMS certification, but this process is likely to take several weeks, if not months. While these students, an estimated 300-400 EMTs and Paramedics, could retake the State (PSI) exam, this would not only be burdensome and redundant to those who received certification under the Executive Order, but would also add further delay in scheduling of these essential workers.

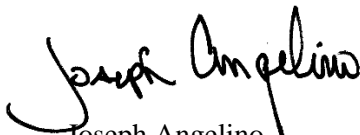
While we are certainly elated that the State of Emergency as relating to the COVID-19 health crisis has expired, it is important to identify any unintended consequences that may have resulted


from the sunseting of this EO, including the provision which has left hundreds of trained EMTs and Paramedics out of the field. During a time when we are facing an EMS personnel shortage, bordering on catastrophic in many areas of the state, it is critical that this issue is corrected immediately so that these first responders can get to work in their communities.

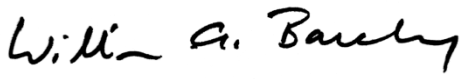
Thank you for your time and attention to this request. We look forward to receiving a timely response.

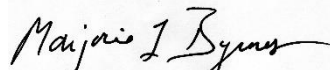
Sincerely,

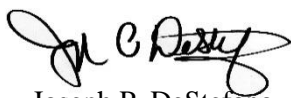

Mary Beth Walsh
112th Assembly District

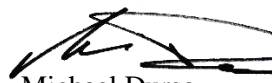

Joseph Angelino
122nd Assembly District

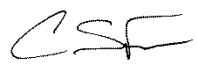

Jacob Ashby
107th Assembly District

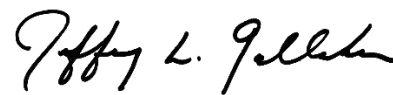

Will Barclay
Assembly Minority Leader


Marjorie L. Byrnes
133rd Assembly District



Joseph P. DeStefano
3rd Assembly District



Michael Durso
9th Assembly District



Christopher S. Friend
124th Assembly District



Jeffery Gallahan
131st Assembly District



Jodi Giglio
2nd Assembly District



Andrew Goodell
150th Assembly District



Stephen M. Hawley
139th Assembly District

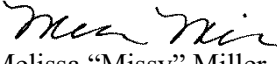

Michael Lawler
97th Assembly District



John Lemondes, Jr.
126th Assembly District



Brian D. Manktelow
130th Assembly District

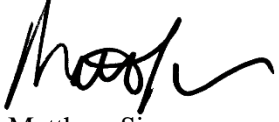

David G. McDonough
14th Assembly District

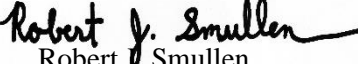

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17th Assembly District



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20th Assembly District


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132nd Assembly District


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Matthew Simpson
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