



ANGELO SANTABARBARA
Assemblyman 111th District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

CHAIR
Subcommittee on Autism
Spectrum Disorders
COMMITTEES
Agriculture
Energy
Governmental Employees
Mental Health
Racing and Wagering
Veterans' Affairs

April 28th, 2020

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

Dear Governor Cuomo:

I know this has been a difficult time for everyone. Among the many challenges we face, with the end of the school year quickly approaching, high school seniors have now been placed in a world of uncertainty, isolation, and fear, during a time that should be a celebration of achievement.

With that in mind, I ask that you explore the possibility of allowing high school graduation ceremonies to take place by putting forth the necessary guidelines that would be required to keep everyone safe. Although it may not be possible in New York City, I ask that you explore this possibility at least for upstate schools, possibly in an outdoor setting and following social distancing guidelines.

Many parents in my local school districts have voiced their plea to hold some form of ceremony in an open area such as a football field, maintaining social distancing protocols with all students 6 feet apart and no audience. Using technology family and friends could easily participate through a live-stream event.

For these students, and their families, the ceremony, in whatever form is deemed safe during this time, reflects a right of passage for so many reasons. I am sure as a parent you understand the significance. I can assure you that there are many others that feel these students need to be together one last time, even if it is 6 feet apart.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara
Representing areas of Albany, Montgomery, and Schenectady Counties