



The Legislature  
State of New York

September 17, 2021

Hon. Kathy Hochul, Governor  
New York State  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul:

Congratulations on being sworn in as our state's 57<sup>th</sup> and first female Governor! We look forward to working with you in the coming weeks and months to help move New York State forward.

We are writing on behalf of more than 1,100 of our shared constituents who are former and retired health care workers of the now-shuttered St. Clare's Hospital in our district in the City of Schenectady.

St. Clare's Hospital was closed over a decade ago by a requirement of the state's Berger Commission in its mission to right-size New York's health care facilities, and its operations were absorbed by Ellis Medicine. At the time, the state provided a level of funding which was not commensurate with the level of need. Unfortunately, for reasons not yet fully identified, that was not enough to cover the St. Clare's pension fund's costs. Since federal law permits a religious exemption, the St. Clare's pension fund has no benefit guarantee insurance. These 1,100-plus New Yorkers, who cared for some of the most vulnerable, have been coping with economic uncertainty and desperation with no end in sight as their pensions evaporated in the snap of a finger through no fault of their own. This pandemic has made their economic situations even more precarious.

Unfortunately, our previous governor refused to ever meet with or listen to the concerns of the pensioners. We know you have a tremendous amount on your plate, we respectfully ask you to please set aside a few minutes in the near future to meet with us and the leader of the St. Clare's Pensioners Recovery Alliance so we and her can impart their concerns.

We wish you success because we know that when you succeed, New York succeeds! Thank you again for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of James N. Tedisco in black ink.

James N. Tedisco  
49<sup>th</sup> Senate District

Handwritten signature of Angelo Santabarbara in black ink.

Angelo Santabarbara  
111<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Handwritten signature of Mary Hartshorne in black ink.

Mary Hartshorne  
Chair, St. Clare's Pensioners Recovery Alliance