



CLIFFORD W. CROUCH
Assemblyman 122nd District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

CHAIR
Minority Conference

COMMITTEES
Agriculture
Economic Development, Job Creation,
Commerce and Industry
Ways and Means
Rules

June 26, 2020

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

Dear Governor Cuomo:

I write to you today to express my deepest concerns about your decision to remove gyms from Phase IV of reopening. Since your announcement yesterday, I have heard from gym and fitness center owners in my district who have expressed frustrations and concerns that if they do not open soon, they may never open their doors again. In rural Upstate New York, our gyms do not have the luxury of having a large customer base like those in metropolitan areas and should not be held to the same standard as gyms in cities which often experience overcrowding. They have presented me with guidelines that neighboring states like Pennsylvania have implemented with great success. This will allow New Yorkers to not only go to the gym and promote a healthy lifestyle, but also to do so in a safe and socially-distanced manner. I would like to share these guidelines with you.

Over the last few weeks, the Southern Tier and New York State as a whole have made great strides in fighting against the spread of COVID-19. Our region, and many outside of New York City and Long Island, never experienced the surge like our fellow New Yorkers downstate. We have followed your guidelines to a T, and COVID-19 cases and death numbers continue to dwindle. While the health and safety of my constituents is my top priority, I cannot see the logic in this recent announcement.

For weeks, we have all stuck to the plan. Gyms, malls, and movie theaters have been working around the clock to come up with creative and safe ways to open their doors again. Gyms play not only a crucial role in the physical health and fitness of New Yorkers, but also contribute to mental health, which surely has taken toll during the NYS on PAUSE initiative. Studies have shown that regular exercise and fitness, as well as good sleeping and eating habits, play crucial roles in boosting one's immune system, which could ultimately play a role in how badly COVID-19 affects an individual who contracts the virus.

A gym owner in my district suggested the following guidelines be implemented to allow a safe opening of gyms across the Empire State:

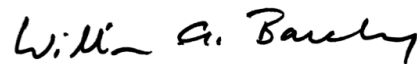
- Limited occupancy starting at 25%, with a slow phase into 50%, 75%, and then finally full capacity.
- Masks required in common areas (i.e. locker rooms, reception/entry areas).
- No 24/7 facilities. Require reduced hours, and increase maintenance, cleaning, and sanitizing hours.
- Require detailed sanitation plans.
- Proper social distancing between equipment.
- Ample cleaning stations throughout gym for members to clean equipment before and after use.
- Keep logs of all members using facility in the event of a confirmed case.

It is my hope that you will review these guidelines and use them as a resource to save our struggling gyms across the state, which are fighting tooth and nail every day to keep their doors open. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Clifford W. Crouch
122nd Assembly District



Will Barclay
Assembly Minority Leader



Jake Ashby
107th Assembly District



Ken Blankenbush
117th Assembly District



Karl Brabenec
98th Assembly District



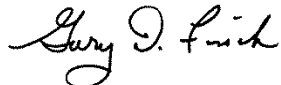
Marjorie Byrnes
133rd Assembly District



Joe DeStefano
3rd Assembly District



David DiPietro
147th Assembly District



Gary D. Finch
126th Assembly District



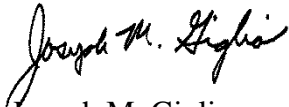
Michael Fitzpatrick
8th Assembly District



Christopher S. Friend
124th Assembly District



Andrew Garbarino
7th Assembly District



Joseph M. Giglio
148th Assembly District



Andy Goodell
150th Assembly District



Steve Hawley
139th Assembly District



Brian M. Kolb
131st Assembly District



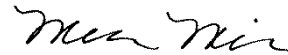
Kieran Michael Lalor
105th Assembly District



Dave McDonough
14th Assembly District



John Mikulin
17th Assembly District



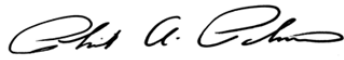
Melissa "Missy" Miller
20th Assembly District



Angelo Morinello
145th Assembly District



Mike Norris
144th Assembly District



Phil Palmesano
132nd Assembly District




Anthony Palumbo
2nd Assembly District



Ed Ra
19th Assembly District



Mike Reilly
62nd Assembly District



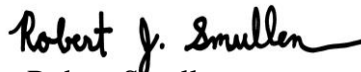
John Salka
121st Assembly District



Colin Schmitt
99th Assembly District



Doug Smith
5th Assembly District



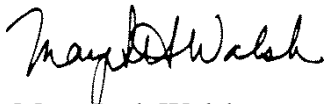
Robert Shullen
118th Assembly District



Chris Tague
102nd Assembly District



Mark Walczyk
116th Assembly District



Mary Beth Walsh
112th Assembly District