

January 25, 2021

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

Dear Governor Cuomo,

On January 16th, we wrote to you to bring your attention to what we believed was an unintentional consequence of the recently expanded vaccination plan to include people in the 1B distribution group. Specifically, we believed that the re-allocation of vaccine to the 1B distribution sites had inadvertently negated your previous priority population designation for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and other groups in 1A.

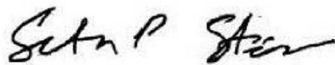
However, with Executive Order 202.91 and the subsequent letter from DOH Commissioner Zucker on January 23rd articulating a proportionality-based vaccine distribution plan until vaccine supply increases overall, we are alarmed that people with I/DD in certified residential settings, the direct care staff who support people with I/DD, and others with disabilities in 1A are conspicuously absent. We urge you to amend your Executive Order and the guidance from DOH to reflect what we hope is simply an oversight.

Most alarmingly, we also want to advise you that in some cases we have had second dose appointments cancelled and have not been able to reschedule those vaccinations. Aside from lack of distribution and prioritization, this is antithetical to your promise that no New Yorker would experience this situation.

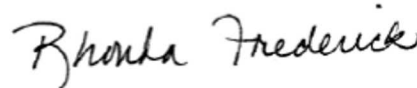
People with I/DD living in congregate settings are more likely to get seriously ill and die from COVID-19 due to the nature of their disabilities and their living environment. Your original vaccine distribution prioritization plan rightly placed these individuals, the staff who support people with I/DD, and others with disabilities in the first phase of vaccine administration. Anything less cannot be considered fair or equitable.

Thank you for originally recognizing people with I/DD and other disabilities as priorities for vaccine distribution and we urge you to clearly articulate that they remain in the priority category as vaccine distribution continues.

Very truly yours,



Seth Stein, Esq.
Executive Director & General Counsel
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Rhonda Frederick
President
Developmental Disabilities Alliance of WNY



Susan Constantino
President & CEO
Cerebral Palsy Associations of New York State



Tom McAlvanah
Executive Director
**InterAgency Council of Developmental
Disabilities, Inc. & Board Chair, NY Disability
Advocates (NYDA)**



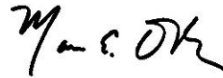
Michael Seereiter
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Executive Director
**New York Association of Emerging &
Multicultural Providers, Inc.**



Erik Geizer
Chief Executive Officer
The Arc New York



Maureen O'Brien
President & CEO
New York State Industries for the Disabled

cc: DOH Commissioner Howard Zucker
OPWDD Commissioner Theodore Kastner