

NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE

May 7, 2021

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

Dear Governor Cuomo,

As New York State begins to take aggressive steps towards fully reopening our local economies -- as well as our civic, educational and social lives -- we appreciate this opportunity to urge your administration's immediate attention to the need to allow local offices of the state Department of Motor Vehicles to fully reopen with the restart of walk-in services.

We share this urgency on the part of local governments as well as on behalf of the local residents we represent for whom limited, appointment-only local DMV services pose an unnecessary inconvenience and lack of accessibility. It is our understanding that on average in the counties we represent, the wait time for an appointment at the local DMV is three to four weeks. That is simply unacceptable.

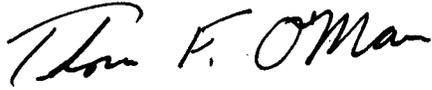
It has also been brought to our attention by a number of counties we represent that it remains an ongoing and significant loss of local revenue while local DMVs are operating on an appointment-only and/or drop box basis to serve local residents. Furthermore, this ongoing loss of local revenue is exacerbated by the state's continued push for on-line renewals of vehicle registrations and driver's licenses through which the state receives all of the revenue.

In short, we believe, as we hope you do, that based on science and facts, fully reopening the local DMV offices can be done safely due to the significant number of New Yorkers that have been vaccinated combined with the continued decrease in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations.

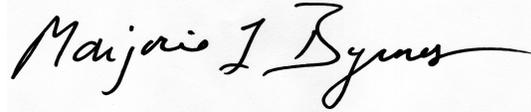
Local governments have been among the hardest-hit sectors throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The immediate removal of State-imposed reopening restrictions like limiting local DMV transactions is critical to the short- and long-term recovery of our local governments and, equally important, to a more rapid rebuilding and resetting of our local communities and economies for the sake of our local residents and their return to normal.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter and we look forward to your administration's favorable response to allowing local branches of the state Department of Motor Vehicles to fully reopen with walk-in service.

Sincerely,



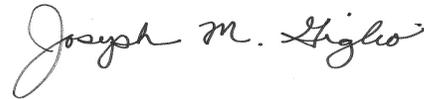
Thomas F. O'Mara
58th Senate District



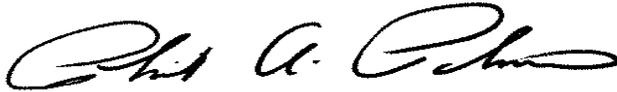
Marjorie Byrnes
133rd Assembly District



Christopher S. Friend
124th Assembly District



Joseph M. Giglio
148th Assembly District



Philip A. Palmesano
132nd Assembly District

cc: Commissioner Mark J. F. Schroeder, NYS Department of Motor Vehicles