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**STEVE HAWLEY**  
Deputy Minority Leader  
139<sup>th</sup> District

February 3, 2022

Honorable Kathy Hochul  
Governor of New York State  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul:

I am writing to strongly support the school districts within my 139<sup>th</sup> Assembly District asking you and NYSDOH develop an appropriate guidance, "Pathway to Normalcy", an exit strategy regarding all mitigation measures and also local control be fully restored to the school districts in collaboration with the local Department of Health.

I am a firm believer that one-size-fits-all mandates are an inappropriate strategy. The schools in my district are predominately located in rural areas. In-school learning, supplemented by online learning as needed, was difficult at best in the beginning of the pandemic. The schools in my district developed plans, as best as they could without reliable and accessible broadband.

I firmly support and trust the school districts in my 139<sup>th</sup> AD to make the best and safest decisions for our children. Please develop a pathway in the form of guidance, allowing school districts to work closely with our local Department of Health, to develop plans that work best for their community.

I am anxiously awaiting the day when the pandemic is a distant memory and we can return to our normal lives, as I am sure you are. In order to accomplish this goal, we need to let local communities and local DOH's make local decisions.

In closing, as a fellow Western New Yorker and friend, I ask that you strongly consider my request. I appreciate your consideration and am hopeful for a positive response.

Sincerely,

**STEVE HAWLEY**  
Deputy Minority Leader  
Member of Assembly  
139<sup>th</sup> A.D.

SMH:esb

CC: 139<sup>th</sup> Assembly District School Superintendents

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