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ERIE COUNTY COMPTROLLER

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ERIE COUNTY COMPTROLLER SUPPORTS SPECIAL PROSECUTOR TO INVESTIGATE NURSING HOME DEATHS

State lawmaker calling for former U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara to probe Governor Cuomo alleged coverup of nursing home death data

(ERIE COUNTY, NY) – Erie County Comptroller Stefan Mychajliw says he supports calls to appoint Preet Bharara as special prosecutor to investigate the nursing home deaths in New York State. Mr. Bharara is the former federal prosecutor who served as the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York.

New York State Senator Michael Martucci, a Republican representing the 42nd district, is calling for Mr. Bharara to be appointed to probe into wrongdoing and any alleged coverup by the Cuomo Administration in the number of senior who died in nursing homes in New York State. This comes after a top aide to Governor Andrew Cuomo acknowledged that data was withheld on nursing home COVID-related deaths in numerous published reports.

“Melissa DeRosa, a top Cuomo aide, admitted Governor Cuomo was not forthcoming about Coronavirus nursing home deaths. That’s unconscionable. Was there a coverup? Last June I called for an investigation. I think appointing Preet Bharara, a Democrat with a history of independence and penchant for exposing the truth, is a necessary step to getting the answers every New Yorker deserves,” said Comptroller Mychajliw.

The Cuomo Administration has come under fire for his policies that ordered sick seniors stricken with COVID into nursing homes around previously healthy patients.

“This death sentence for seniors that needlessly died must be investigated. Families have suffered for far too long. These seniors and their loved ones deserved better. Hiring a special prosecutor is the right thing to do.”

“Republicans and Democrats, in a bi-partisan show of unity, should support this recommendation. Mr. Bharara is a Democrat. He would be an independent choice to investigate nursing home deaths and why a top Cuomo aide told lawmakers they lied, denied and stonewalled the Justice Department on the true number of seniors that died,” concluded Comptroller Mychajliw.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARTUCCI CALLS FOR PREET BHARARA TO BE APPOINTED AS NURSING HOMES SPECIAL PROSECUTER

Former U.S. Attorney Has Proven Track Record to Investigate Political Corruption

MIDDLETOWN, NY – Senator Mike Martucci (R,C,I-New Hampton) released the following statement in response to the breaking New York Post report that the most senior aide to Governor Cuomo admitted to hiding nursing home death data to prevent federal investigators from finding out:

"This isn't about right and left. This is about right and wrong, and covering up 15,000 deaths for political reasons is flat out wrong. We need to know what this administration knew and when. An independent investigation is needed now more than ever, and anyone involved should face justice. Therefore, I am calling for two specific action items.

"First, we need a truly independent investigation — that rules out the Attorney General and the Biden administration since both have been endorsed by and supported by the Governor. Only one person is trusted by both sides of the aisle and has a record of pursuing and prosecuting political corruption wherever it may lurk. His name is Preet Bharara. The Attorney General and the Department of Justice should step aside and appoint Mr. Bharara as Special Prosecutor in this case and provide him with all the people and resources he needs to pursue this investigation wherever it may lead.

"Second, the State Legislature must meet in a special session next week to finally pass a joint resolution revoking the Governor's extraordinary emergency powers. Only an administration who believes it is above the law would have the nerve to admit to a cover up on an open call that could be recorded. That arrogance comes from having too much power and the Legislature has no choice now but to act to revoke it.

"The families of victims in nursing homes and assisted living/adult care facilities deserve real answers, accountability, and justice. This is the only way we can trust that will happen."

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