

SUSPENSION

A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY LEGISLATOR LORIGO, RATH, TODARO, AND MILLS

Re: Calling for New York State to Allow Theaters to Reopen

WHEREAS, Governor Cuomo continues to prohibit theaters from resuming operations anywhere in New York State, and has provided no guidance for when theaters can reopen; and

WHEREAS, as of the end of September, every state, with the exception of New York and North Carolina, has reopened theaters or at least provided a plan to allow theaters to reopen. New York's refusal to reopen theaters has directly led to the national shutdown of all 536 Regal Cinemas locations; and

WHEREAS, Regal Cinemas employs over 40,000 people across its 536 locations, with the inability of Congress to pass a reasonable second stimulus bill, the economic impact of their national shutdown cannot be understated; and

WHEREAS, independent local theaters also employ thousands of residents across New York State have also been forced to suspend operations. Local cinemas like the Aurora Cinema, the North Park Theater, the Palace, the New Angola Theater, and the Amherst Theater should have the opportunity to safely reopen if they desire; and

WHEREAS, just as the financial loss from the mandated closure of movie theaters is being felt across the nation, the potential loss of our region's cultural richness live theater brings to society are at risk of being permanently lost; and

WHEREAS, local live theater such as Shea's Theater, Torn Space Theater, Kavinoky Theater, the Irish Classical Theater Company, Road Less Traveled Productions and others are similarly prohibited from offering their services with many at risk of being unable to reopen entirely; and

WHEREAS, in light of the significant drop in infection rate from March through to the present the imposition of an executive order closing theaters is unreasonable; and

WHEREAS, to prohibit the reopening of theaters with no guidance whatsoever as to when they might be allowed to reopen is unconstitutional. Further, considering that bars, restaurants, bowling alleys, and malls have been allowed to reopen shows the closure of New York's theaters is an arbitrary use of executive authority, not reasonably related to stopping the spread of COVID-19.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that this honorable body hereby supports all theaters, their employees, and their patrons; and, be it further

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RESOLVED, that this body further expresses faith in residents to use common sense when attending theaters to do so in a safe and enjoyable manner for everyone; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that this honorable body hereby calls on Governor Cuomo to ease restrictions on the operation of movie theaters and allow them to reopen; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this Resolution be sent to Governor Andrew Cuomo and any other party deemed necessary and proper.

Fiscal Impact: None for resolution