

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY
LEGISLATOR TODARO**

FILED FEB 18 '21 AM 9:55

Re: Supporting Expansion of 1A Vaccine Priority to Include Congregate Living Centers that Provide Care for the Elderly

WHEREAS, Group 1A is the highest priority for vaccine distribution in New York State. This designation provides priority vaccinations to nursing home residents and frontline healthcare workers; and

WHEREAS, Erie County is home to hundreds of elderly nuns living in congregate settings like motherhouses and convents. Many congregations provide care to their frail and elderly members with the same level of attention as long-term care facilities and nursing homes; and

WHEREAS, despite providing the same level of treatment, motherhouses and convents are not considered long-term care facilities or nursing homes for the purposes of vaccine distribution and eligibility; and

WHEREAS, an outbreak at a Felician Sister's convent in Cheektowaga led to the infection of twenty-two nuns and six deaths. As a result of the deaths, the convent has shut down entry and exit to the convent for everyone since November; and

WHEREAS, the women who passed away due to COVID-19 complications at the Cheektowaga convent ranged in age from 70 to 95 years old. On an individual basis, these women provided decades of care to residents of Erie County; and

WHEREAS, across the nation elderly nuns have been dying as the pandemic has spread through their living facilities just as it has run through traditional nursing homes and long-term care facilities; and

WHEREAS, these convents and motherhouses, despite providing long-term care to their elderly residents, are not eligible for 1A vaccine status. As a result, the sisters are forced to wait to receive potentially life-saving vaccinations until more eligibility criteria opens or they fall under 1B eligibility; and

WHEREAS, sisters of the same Felician order have been vaccinated in Illinois, New Jersey, and Michigan already. It is time New York State provide the same priority to those located in New York.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that this honorable body hereby supports the expansion of 1A priority designation to include all elderly congregate living centers and facilities providing long-term care, including motherhouses and convents, that are not currently include in 1A eligibility; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that this honorable body again urges the Federal Government and the State of New York to increase the supply and distribution of vaccines to Erie County; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to Governor Andrew Cuomo, the Western New York Delegation to the New York State Senate and Assembly, and any other party deemed necessary and proper.

Fiscal Impact: None for resolution