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July, 28th 2022

Dr. Mary T. Bassett M.D., M.P.H.
New York State Commissioner of Health
Wadsworth Laboratory
Albany, NY 12248

SENT VIA EMAIL + POSTAGE MAIL

Re: Expanding Eligibility for the Monkeypox (JYENNOS) Vaccine

Dear Commissioner Bassett,

I hope this letter finds you well. **I am deeply concerned about the rapid growth of the Monkeypox virus across our State. Concerned constituents and other public health advocates have reached out to my office and informed me about some of the challenges being face by individuals who wish to obtain the Monkeypox (JYENNOS) Vaccine**. In their experience, they believe that community spread is being aided by the rigidity of the vaccination guidelines which all prospective patients must adhere to if they wish to receive the vaccine.

While I understand that the vaccine is currently in limited supply, **I'm concerned that as the virus continues to spread in greater number within the initial communities of transmission, that too little is being done to address the possibility that the virus has already spread to the general population.** Given the relative ease through which this virus can be transmitted, I'm concerned that an outbreak can precipice as children and college students return to school this Fall.

Fortunately, I am confident that there is still time to act. I ask that additional consideration be given to these guidelines to examine whether or not they are unnecessarily restrictive. In addition, I encourage that more be done to keep local governmental officials informed with the latest information about this nascent virus. My greatest desire is that the hard-learned lessons of the COVID-19 pandemic can be applied so that we can avoid the challenges we experienced at the height of the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I thank you and your agency for their tireless work on behalf of the people of our great State and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Assemblyman Nader J. Sayegh
90th District