



**Gerard Kassar**  
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New York State  
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June 10, 2020

Hon. William Barr, Attorney General  
Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Barr:

Please find attached almost 2,000 petition signatures from New Yorkers in support of a NYS Conservative Party petition requesting a Justice Department investigation of the NYS Covid19 nursing home crisis.

On March 25, 2020, Commissioner Howard A. Zucker, a gubernatorial appointee, issued a memo, instructing the NYS Department of Health (DOH) to officially inform nursing homes that said regulatory body was instructing nursing home operators that "no resident shall be denied re-admission or admission to the NH solely based on a confirmed or suspected diagnosis of COVID-19". NHs are prohibited from requiring a hospitalized resident who is determined medically stable to be tested for COVID-19 prior to admission or readmission."

It is generally agreed that the implementation of the Commissioner's memo had a devastating effect on the state's 627 nursing homes. As of this writing over 6,000 nursing home residents have perished and unfortunately expectations of larger numbers as deaths are reviewed and reclassified.

The Governor, under pressure from families, the media, elected officials, and political leadership, acknowledged the problem by calling for the NYS Department of Health and the State Attorney General to investigate. The Conservative Party takes exception with the State investigating itself. We firmly believe that both the NYS Attorney General and the Commissioner of Health are political functionaries lacking the ability to act independently particularly when the Governor's actions are a likely target of any investigation.

As such, we were an early proponent of an independent federal investigation. Many editorial boards, members of the NYS Congressional delegation, State Legislators, other governmental, political, community and health care professionals have joined us in support of a federal investigation.

The people of the State of New York need answers, those who signed our petitions demand answers. We believe you are in the best position to conduct an investigation.

Thanking you for your time, I am

Sincerely,

Gerard Kassar  
State Chairman