Candidates for Delegate to the 2020 Democratic National Convention  
Pledged to Bernie Sanders  
c/o NY For Bernie 2020  
225 Broadway Suite 1902  
New York, New York 10007

To: Board of Elections Commissioners Kellner, Kosinki and Spano:

We, the undersigned, are candidates for delegate to the 2020 Democratic National Convention from New York State, pledged to support the candidacy of Bernie Sanders. We obtained and filed over 65,000 petition signatures from New York state registered Democrats, in all 27 Congressional Districts. Every delegate position for Senator Sanders -- 184 in total -- was filled. Upon filing our acceptance forms, we were entitled to appear on the primary ballot under the then-current law.

We write this letter in order to confirm our desire to remain on the ballot, in order to give Presidential primary voters the opportunity to cast their votes for us, if they so choose.

We are deeply concerned about recent statements by Democratic Party officials, particularly by the Executive Director, Jay Jacobs, in which it is alleged that by virtue of new legislative language surreptitiously inserted at the last moment into the NYS Budget, Senator Sanders and his delegates could be removed from the ballot against his wishes and our wishes. The entire Presidential primary in New York, apparently, could be cancelled, and all the delegate positions could be awarded to individuals chosen by the state committee, even if these individuals did not petition to be on the ballot. A small clique of party leaders would substitute themselves for the voters, and choose the New York delegation from among their favorites and party loyalists. We find this possibility entirely unacceptable.

Senator Sanders has clearly indicated that, although he has suspended his campaign, he wishes to remain on the ballot and hopes to add to his delegate total leading into the national convention. We, the delegate candidates, have not suspended our campaigns and are still running to be selected as delegates. We see a role to play in actively creating the Democratic Party platform and building coalitions with all segments of the Democratic “big tent.”

We do understand that there may have been legitimate concerns about cost and public safety. But those concerns have been effectively addressed by consolidating the Presidential, Federal and State primaries onto one ballot on one date, and by offering absentee ballots to every voter so they are not forced to go to a polling location during the pandemic. With both of those recent changes, which have been welcomed by the voters and by us, there is no need to take the added step of cancelling the Presidential primary.
To cancel the Presidential primary would be an affront to democracy, to the efforts and dedication of our delegate candidates, and to common decency and fairness. Such action can only lead to widespread disillusionment with the Democratic Party, increased divisiveness, and decreased turnout for our candidates in November. It would have an especially negative effect on the morale of voters under 40, swing voters, and those like us who have worked hard to participate in the election process.

At a time when our democracy is threatened by deliberate attempts to suppress voting, by the creation of unreasonable, unnecessary, and discriminatory voter ID laws, by the closing of polling sites and even by the actual endangerment of voters' lives during a devastating pandemic – the last thing New York voters need or want to see is the arbitrary removal of approved candidates from the ballot, or, even worse, the outright cancellation of a Presidential primary.

We fully expect that the names of Senator Sanders and his entire delegate slate will appear on the presidential ballot and that the primary will proceed accordingly.

Sincerely,

Emily Adams  
Vanessa Agudelo  
Atqiya (Moumita) Ahmed  
George Albro  
Javier Anderson  
Ana Maria Archila  
Martha Ayon  
Christopher Banks  
Adam Baumel  
Donald Bazley  
Carla Bellamy  
Jay Bellanca  
Rachel J. Bernstein  
Kellie Brauchle  
Katherine Brezler  
Maurice Brown  
Douglas (Doug) Bullock  
David Caligiuri  
Jennifer Campoli

Corrinne Greene  
De'Jon Hall  
Joseph Henderson  
Brendon Henry  
Hillary Hess  
Charles Hess  
Daniel Hinton  
Gina Ironside  
Elias (Jake) Jacobs  
Jerome Janik  
Evan Karl  
Edward L. (Eddie) Kay  
Christine Keihm  
Toni Kennedy  
Marva Kerwin  
Bijaya Khadka  
Mahtab Khan  
Erlend Kimmich  
Diana Klementowski  
Joseph Pisano  
Shamariah Pratt-Sullivan  
Nicole Press  
Sarana Purcell  
Rasel Rahman  
Virginia Ramos-Rios  
London Reyes  
David Robin  
Rebecca Rojer  
Nancy Romer  
Tammy Rose  
Linda Rosen  
Mindy Rosier-Rayburn  
James Ross  
Keith Rubino  
Susan Rutman  
Malik Sanders  
Boris Santos  
Kayla Santosuosso
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<tr>
<th>Cari Gardner</th>
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<th>Karin Wikoff</th>
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<td>Megan Gilroy</td>
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