To Governor Cuomo, Commissioners Kellner, Kosinki and Spano:

Over the past many months, our progressive grassroots organizations have invested an enormous amount of time and effort into nominating a candidate who stands for our values and principles. Whether we rallied on the streets for Elizabeth Warren or Bernie Sanders, rang phones for Kamala Harris or Andrew Yang, or knocked on doors for Amy Klobuchar, Pete Buttigieg, or any of the other candidates, we understood what was at stake. The weather has been harsh, the competition for signatures has been fierce, the television debates and town halls have been all-consuming, and the physical dangers of campaigning during a pandemic have given us considerable anxiety.

But we have a passion for this work. We care about our communities, our state, our country, and the planet. We have persisted in our campaigning and our advocacy work, and endured all the recent hardships, fully expecting to be able to vote for our preferred candidate once he or she had qualified to be on the ballot.

We are genuinely concerned about the suspension of democracy as proposed in a last-minute clause tucked into the budget. Should you choose to enforce Part TT of NYS7506B, it would be deeply divisive, at a time when the Democratic Party needs to be strong and unified. We urge you to prioritize saving lives and defeating Donald Trump over the possible implementation of this clause. Cancelling the Presidential primary is not the right way to address our current challenges.

If the Democratic Party expects to regain control of the Oval Office, we must increase turnout and participation, not discourage young and swing voters who want to be heard during this primary. Young voters in particular will bring the energy, enthusiasm, skills, and talent necessary to help us defeat Trump in November. There is no substitute for the efforts and enthusiasm of motivated volunteers on a national campaign.

The New York Presidential primary is scheduled to take place on the same day and via the same ballot as other primary elections taking place in every Congressional District in New York State. Concerns about potential health risks to voters and poll workers have been addressed by the recent decision, which we applaud, to allow all New Yorkers the possibility of voting via absentee ballot. We urge you to let New Yorkers cast our votes,
and have our say, in the 2020 Democratic Presidential Primary. In doing so, you will keep grassroots participation and voter engagement high in our time of quarantine, without any significant impact on costs or public safety.

Respectfully,

Barack Obama Democratic Club
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action (Long Island Chapter)
Bronx Indivisible
Bronx Progressives
Bronx/Upper Manhattan DSA
Cortlandt, Croton on Hudson, Ossining, Peekskill Indivisible (CCoHOpe Indivisible)
Capital District for Bernie
Citizen Action of New York
Concerned Citizens For Change
Concerned Families of Westchester (CFOW)
Grassroots Action NY
Harlem Indivisible
Harlem/Upper Westside for Bernie
High Peaks DSA
Hudson Valley People for Bernie
Indivisible CD 19
Indivisible Harlem
Indivisible Nassau County
Inwood Indivisible
Ithaca DSA
Liberty Union Progressives
Long Island Activists
Long Island Opt Out
Long Island Progressive Coalition (LIPC)
Lower Hudson Valley DSA
Lower Hudson Valley Progressive Action Network
Make the Road Action
Muslims for Progress
NY Capital District for Bernie
NY Communities for Change
NY Delegate Slate
NY Progressive Action Network (NYPAN)
NY Working Families Party
NYPAN Greene
NYPAN of the Southern Finger Lakes
Nassau DSA
Nassau Indivisible
North Country NYPAN
North Forkers for the Common Good
Our Revolution Cayuga County
Potsdam, New York Friends of Bernie
Potsdam Protest Group
Principled Progressives
Progressive Action of Lower Manhattan (PALM)
Progressive East End Reformers (PEER)
Progressive Power Inwood Heights
Protect Orange County
Rockland Citizens Action Network (Rockland CAN)
Rockland United
Saugerties Indivisible
Sister Diaspora for Liberation
Stonybrook University College Democrats
Stonybrook University Young DSA
Suffolk County DSA
Suffolk Progressives
Sunrise Movement Adirondacks
Tioga Progressives
Tompkins County Progressives
Ulster People
Uplift Syracuse
Uptown Progressive Action
We of Action - NY

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