

Statement on the Resignation of Governor Andrew Cuomo

August 10th, 2021

On August 10th, Governor Andrew Cuomo announced his resignation, effective in 14 days. His resignation comes at a time where increasing public awareness of acts of corruption and abuse committed by the governor had brought the state legislature to the point where they were preparing to impeach him for his actions. Throughout his time as governor, Andrew Cuomo has misused his position to benefit himself and his political backers, while he took actions that were detrimental to the health, safety, and wellbeing of New Yorkers, allowed corruption to fester in the state government, worked to undermine the state's democratic system, and used his power to prey on others. Governor Cuomo failed his ethical duties as a public servant. It was for these reasons that our party called for the governor to resign or be impeached. Governor Cuomo, after finally recognizing that he could not escape accountability for his actions, has finally decided to resign from the office of governor.

While it was right for Governor Cuomo to resign, it is unfortunate that we had to get to this point. It is unfortunate that the governor abused his power the way he did. It is unfortunate how his actions have negatively impacted the people of New York.

Even though Governor Cuomo has resigned, this is not the end of this matter. Andrew Cuomo still faces investigation from various law enforcement agencies regarding his conduct in office. These officials should do their due diligence in their investigations going forward and work to hold Andrew Cuomo accountable for his actions.

The damage that Governor Cuomo has inflicted on New York will continue to exist after he has left office, and we will need to work to repair this damage. Andrew Cuomo and his co-conspirators in the state legislature worked to favor the alcohol industry (weakening state restrictions on alcohol sales and using state agencies to promote the growth of the alcohol industry) at the expense of the health, safety, wellbeing, and lives of New Yorkers. They made the mistake of legalizing another intoxicating drug, enriching greedy companies at the expense of the public. State economic development programs still face issues of corruption, mismanagement, and lack of transparency. The issue of how the Cuomo administration handled various aspects of their response to the coronavirus outbreak (such as its handling of nursing homes) are still being investigated and its results could inform how our state may approach dealing with the coronavirus and other potential pandemics in the future. Our society still faces the problem of people in positions of power engaging in sexual harassment. These and other issues will need to be addressed as our state moves forward.

Our state should work to address and remedy the damages which have been inflicted on our state over the past decade. We should work to end state support for the alcohol industry (and other businesses that traffic in poisoning consumers), restrengthen state restrictions on alcohol sales, and expand education, prevention, cessation, and addiction treatment programs. We should work to strengthen state ethics laws, root out corruption in state offices and programs, improve transparency, and reform economic development programs. We should repeal the anti-democratic changes to state ballot access laws that were made last year, restore the statewide ballot access of every party that had their statewide ballot access unjustly stripped from them, and either restore the old ballot access

standards or establish even less restrictive standards. We should work to improve our state's ability to respond to the coronavirus. We should work to address the issue of sexual harassment and hold any other officials who have engaged in sexual harassment accountable for their actions. We should work to confront the toxicity and disfunction in our present political environment, and work to foster a new political environment that is more centered on ethical public service and advancing the public welfare.

Once, Governor Cuomo has left office, Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul will become the new governor and serve for the remainder of the term. The next gubernatorial election will take place in 2022. We hope that soon-to-be Governor Hochul will use her time as governor to work to help repair the damage done to our state and help with fostering a healthier political environment. As with any other public official in our state, we will watch what she will do, give credit where credit is due, give criticism where criticism is due, and encourage her to take actions that will benefit the people of this state.

State Chairman Jonathan Makeley

Prohibition Party of New York