



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

ANDREW M. CUOMO
GOVERNOR

July 30, 2014

Dear Acting Health Commissioner Zucker:

The deaths this month of nine-year-old Anna Conte and three-year-old Olivia Marie Newton of Western New York were tragic reminders of the urgent help children with epilepsy desperately need. As a father, I can only imagine the pain Anna and Olivia's parents have been going through and my thoughts and prayers are with them and their families.

I am proud that this year New York passed the Compassionate Care Act to provide relief for children struggling from epilepsy across our state.

Striking the right balance to ensure public safety and public health are protected is crucial. That said, I ask that you review the eighteen month implementation timeline to determine if there is any way to accelerate the process for this specific dire population.

I know you had an opportunity to meet with advocates this week on this very issue – I hope that the meeting was constructive and can be helpful to you as you move forward in this process.

Families with children struggling from epilepsy have fought for years for the passage of the Compassionate Care Act. Now that it is finally law, the children struggling with this condition deserve every consideration we can make that could potentially ease their pain and suffering.

I look forward to hearing of any progress you can make to provide relief to the children of our state living with epilepsy.

Sincerely,

ANDREW M. CUOMO