



June 22, 2021

Hon. Andrew Cuomo
Governor New York State
NYS Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

RE: BNP SUPPORT - S.2803 (Bailey)/A.5707 (Joyner)

Dear Governor Cuomo:

The Buffalo Niagara Partnership, on behalf of its members who employ over a quarter million people in the region, **SUPPORTS S.2803 (Bailey)/A.5707 (Joyner)**. This bill would help address the labor shortages our state economy is facing, while creating economic opportunities and improving outcomes for parolees. This bill passed the Senate and Assembly this year and is currently awaiting your action.

Courts typically include curfews as a condition of post-release supervision. These curfews do not make exceptions for work, meaning that those on supervised release can only work day jobs. Accordingly, parolees do not have access to as many economic opportunities as they could, which works against the purpose of supervised release: allowing parolees to smoothly reintegrate to public life.

S.2803/A.5707 would correct this problem by allowing parolees to be out after curfew if traveling to or performing bona fide work. Effectively, this bill allows parolees to work second- and third-shift jobs. This change would benefit parolees by allowing them to pursue all available economic opportunities without worrying that their supervised release conditions would inhibit their ability to work. It would ease their transition back into public life and likely reduce recidivism.

The bill has benefits for our regional economy, too. As employers across the Buffalo Niagara region struggle to find workers (especially during second- and third-shifts), this change would increase the pool of available employees and allow workplaces to operate closer to their full economic potential.

This bill does not remove curfews altogether, and parolees are still bound by their curfews for any non-work activities. The measure would simply allow parolees to be

productive citizens around the clock while still holding them accountable for legitimate parole violations.

Because of the social and economic benefits this bill would bring, the BNP SUPPORTS S.2803/A.5707.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Grant Loomis
Vice President, Government Affairs
Buffalo Niagara Partnership

CC: Hon. Hon. Andrea Stewart-Cousins, New York Senate Majority Leader
Hon. Carl Heastie, New York Assembly Speaker
Hon. Jamaal Bailey, New York State Senate
Hon. Latoya Joyner, New York State Assembly