A strong backer of President Trump’s failed response to coronavirus, Zeldin ignored health experts with calls to reopen too quickly, putting Suffolk County families in danger.

**Zeldin Praised Trump’s Plan To Reopen The Economy In April 2020.** “Rep. Lee Zeldin: Coronavirus—Trump’s reopening America plan using hyperlocalized roadmap is right call” [Fox News, 4/17/20]

**Zeldin Praised The “Phenomenal Efforts & Results Of The President And His Team” Addressing COVID.** “Had a great meeting w/ @realDonaldTrump today @WhiteHouse to discuss the ongoing response to COVID-19. Grateful for the phenomenal efforts & results of the President & his team delivering for NY & LI. TEAMWORK!” [Lee Zeldin- Twitter- 4/21/20]

**Zeldin Was On The White House “Opening Up America Again” Task Force To Advise Trump On Addressing The Economy In Light Of The Pandemic.** “A bipartisan group of lawmakers has joined a task force to provide counsel to President Donald Trump and the White House on when to loosen public health restrictions and how to get the economy moving after the COVID-19 pandemic. […]The White House dubbed the 97 lawmakers who make up the task force the “Opening Up America Again Congressional Group,” which includes more than enough senators to end debate on a bill and excludes just one Senate Republican, Utah’s Mitt Romney. The group includes familiar Trump allies such as Reps. Jim Jordan of Ohio and Lee Zeldin of New York, along with members of House GOP leadership, including Kevin McCarthy, Steve Scalise and Liz Cheney.” [Roll Call, 4/16/20]

**Headline: The Trump Administration’s Botched Coronavirus Response, Explained.** [Vox, 4/2/20]

In May 2020, Zeldin Called For “Reopening” Businesses And The Economy. “We are ready to reopen safely and respectfully of each other’s health. For many small businesses, if they do not reopen now, they will never reopen. Our local small business owners can take every precaution possible while operating safely and intelligently.” [Lee Zeldin- Twitter- 5/24/20]

In July 2020, Zeldin Called To Reopen Schools For The Start Of The 2020-2021 School Year. “Schools need to reopen for the start of the 2020-2021 school year.” [Lee Zeldin- Twitter- 7/8/20]

In May 2020, Dr. Anthony Fauci, “The Nation’s Top Infectious Disease Expert,” Cautioned Against Reopening The Economy Too Quickly. “Two of the federal government’s top health officials painted a grim picture of the months ahead on Tuesday, warning a Senate committee that the coronavirus pandemic was far from contained, just a day after President Trump declared that ‘we have met the moment and we have prevailed.’ The officials — Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, the nation’s top infectious disease expert, and Dr. Robert R. Redfield, the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention — predicted dire consequences if the nation reopened its economy too soon, noting that the United States still lacked critical testing capacity and the ability to trace the contacts of those infected. If economic interests were allowed to override public health concerns, Dr. Fauci warned, ‘there is a real risk that you will trigger an outbreak that you may not be able to control.’ That could result not only in ‘some suffering and death that could be avoided,’ he said, ‘but could even set you back on the road to trying to get economic recovery.’” [New York Times, 5/12/20]

Dr. Fauci Advised Caution When Considering Reopening Schools For The Fall Of 2020. “The closing of schools and universities has represented one of the biggest upheavals in the outbreak, and Dr. Fauci
and others said that the answer might be that schools would reopen differently throughout the country, depending on the state of the local outbreak. Balancing the decision of whether to keep schools closed for safety reasons or to reopen them to allow parents to return to work — a major factor in any economic recovery — is a difficult question. 'If we keep kids out of school for another year, what’s going to happen is the poor and underprivileged kids who don’t have a parent that’s able to teach them at home will not get to learn for a full year,’ said Senator Rand Paul, Republican of Kentucky. Dr. Fauci pushed back, saying that the virus’s effect on children is still not well understood, and that recent cases of children who have tested positive and developed a serious inflammatory syndrome was worrisome. 'We really better be very careful, particularly when it comes to children,’ he said.” [New York Times, 5/12/20]