January 16, 2014

Honorable Dean G. Skelos

Co-President Pro Tempore

New York State Senate

Albany, New York 12247

RE: Inclusion of Education Investment Tax Credit Legislation (S.4099)

in 2014-15 Adopted State Budget

Dear Senator Skelos,

Yesterday (January 15th) the Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo announced the closure of 10 elementary schools in Western New York, bringing heartbreak to thousands of families in this region.

 As you know, Catholic and other schools in Western New York and throughout the state are under tremendous financial pressure, not for lack of desire or demand, but due to low-income and middle class families losing the financial struggle to provide this needed educational opportunity for their children.

 Thanks to your leadership, the Senate has twice passed legislation for an Education Investment Tax Credit that would encourage greater chartable support for non-profit scholarship organizations in order to assist struggling families to meet Catholic and other school tuition expenses.  This same legislation also encourages greater charitable donations to public schools.

 I urge you to include the Education Investment Tax Credit among the tax proposals included in the final, adopted 2014-15 State Budget.

 I stand firmly behind you in your efforts to make the Education Investment Tax Credit a reality for thousands of New York families in Western New York and throughout the State who need our help.

Sincerely,



Senator Mark Grisanti

New York State Senate – 60th District