



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

John J. Bonacic

Statement by Senator John Bonacic

JOHN J. BONACIC March 9, 2011

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In response to a question from the NY Times, I did state, and do believe that the current tax rates for individuals and families earning more than \$1 million should be continued at its current rate.

I am the grandson of immigrants from what is now Croatia. I was the first in my family to go to college. I know personally the value of small class sizes. Quality teachers and small class sizes, combined with the essential element – parent involvement, is the key to educational success.

I do not care how good the teacher is, if class sizes continue to grow, our classrooms will be less effective environments for learning, and that is unacceptable to the future of our State in my view.

The simple reality is that schools all over – including rural schools in my District, are being hit too hard by the Governor's budget – a budget which I generally support. I understand the position the Governor has been left in, and admire his efforts so far to cut the deficit.

My decision to support the continuation of the tax rate for those earning over \$1 million, may not please everyone in my party. I understand that. I am familiar with the position of not having everyone in my party, pleased with everything I do. However, I believe this is the only reasonable way to address growing property taxes, and the class size issue, which truly does matter to parents.

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