



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

William Larkin

Governor Cuomo Signs Larkin Legislation Zachary's Law, Allowing Students With Disabilities To Participate In Graduation Ceremony

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Senator Bill Larkin (R-C-I, Cornwall-On-Hudson) announced today that Governor Cuomo signed Zachary's Law (S4729-A), a bill Senator Larkin sponsored that would direct local School Boards to establish policies and procedures to allow any student with a disability to participate in their high school graduation ceremony and all related activities.

"Zachary's Law was named after a local Washingtonville High School student named Zachary Lerman," said Senator Bill Larkin. "I thank Governor Cuomo for delivering his signature to this important and meaningful piece of legislation. Graduating High School is a life altering moment not just for the student but also for his or her family."

Prior to this new law, school districts were not required to allow students with disabilities who were receiving transitional services and who had not qualified for a regents or local diploma to participate in their graduation ceremony. Under this new law, students who have been issued a commencement credential will be able to celebrate their achievements at a graduation ceremony with their classmates, teachers and families who have supported and encouraged them throughout their high school careers.

"I enjoyed meeting Zachary and his family during the process of putting this legislation together," continued Larkin. "Due to the cooperation and teamwork of everyone involved this law will have a profound impact on individuals throughout the

State of New York.”

This bill was sponsored by James Skoufis in the Assembly.