

THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK



**PATRICK M. GALLIVAN**

January 28, 2015

Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of New York State  
Executive Chamber  
The Capitol  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

I am writing to request that your 21-Day Amendments to the Executive Budget provide for the full elimination and repeal of the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA).

Working together, we were able to achieve real progress in recent years' budgets to reduce the GEA from \$2.8 billion, in 2010, to \$1 billion today. The school district superintendents I have spoken with have expressed their hope that we can build on this achievement and continue to work towards equitable funding for all schools. This year, New York State is finally in a position to eliminate the GEA completely, and I would enthusiastically support such an outcome.

I welcome your proposal to spend up to \$1.1 billion on increased education aid this year. However, before any of these funds are spent on new programs or initiatives, we must first provide sufficient funding to completely and forever eliminate the GEA. By doing so, we will honor our obligation to provide all of New York's students the "opportunity for a meaningful high school education, one which prepares them to function productively as civic participants," as is required under New York State's Constitution.

I look forward to working with you again this year to enact a budget that eliminates the GEA once and for all and provides all students across the state with an opportunity for a quality education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "P. Gallivan".

Patrick M. Gallivan  
Senator, 59<sup>th</sup> District

CC: Majority Leader Dean Skelos  
Senator John Flanagan  
Robert Mujica, Secretary of the Senate Finance Committee

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