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THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



TERRY GIPSON
SENATOR, 41ST DISTRICT

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March 27, 2014

Honorable Andrew Cuomo
Governor State of New York
Executive Chamber
New York State Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

Honorable Dean Skelos
Temporary President, New York State Senate
Room 330, Capitol
Albany, New York 12247

Honorable Jeffrey Klein
Temporary President, New York State Senate
Room 432, Capitol
Albany, New York 12247

Honorable Sheldon Silver
Speaker, New York State Assembly
Room 932, Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12248

Dear Governor Cuomo, Co-Coalition Leaders Skelos and Klein, and Speaker Silver:

Early Intervention programs offer important services that help many children with special needs and their families in our community. However, New York State has placed the entire responsibility of funding Early Intervention on our counties. In the 41st Senate District, Dutchess County spends approximately \$9 million annually on Early Intervention, and Putnam County puts that cost at approximately \$2.2 million.

I write to continue my advocacy for New York State to provide financial relief to our counties and provide funding for Early Intervention programs in the final 2014/2015 budget. Doing so will allow counties across New York State more revenue to invest in tax relief.

I have introduced legislation, S.6001, which would streamline the process by which funds are distributed to municipalities to finance Early Intervention programs and create a grant pool to provide funding for counties to pay for these programs. It would provide vital relief to the municipalities across the state while improving their ability to more effectively administer Early Intervention services. The current structure of financing Early Intervention costs is simply inadequate.

I strongly encourage you to consider this proposal in this year's budget and provide relief to our counties so that we may work together to reduce the cost of living and doing business in New York State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry Gipson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "T" and "G".

Terry Gipson
Senator, 41st District