



NEIL D. BRESLIN
SENATOR, 46TH DISTRICT

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ROOM 502
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ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247
TEL. 518-455-2225
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July 23, 2010

Governor David Paterson
Executive Chamber
State Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

Re: City of Albany School District

Dear Governor Paterson:

These are very difficult times facing New York State. However, we also must keep in mind that a very important part of the long-term solution to our economic problems will come from our investment in quality education. Your recent veto of Senate Bill 6607B, the Article VII bill for the Education, Labor, and Family Assistance budget will have detrimental effects upon our public school children. Included within S.6607B was a charter school tuition freeze which was lifted with your veto.

The charter school tuition freeze, combined with the two year lag built into the charter school tuition formula, had guaranteed charter schools would receive tuition based on the district's operating expenses from the 2006-2007 school year. The charter school tuition freeze was included both in the Senate budget resolution and S.6607B. I am proud to have voted yes on the charter school tuition freeze twice in order to protect New York's public schools.

If the tuition freeze is not reinstated there will be devastating impacts upon the City School District of Albany, as well as other public school districts throughout New York State. Schools districts have already voted on their school budgets and had not planned for this unexpected veto. The City School District of Albany alone is now facing an unanticipated \$5 million to \$7 million shortfall for the upcoming school year. In order to make up for this loss they may have to cut up to 100 positions. This is not fair to the students and faculty of the City School District of Albany.

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While charter schools deserve adequate funding, the formula on how they receive this funding is flawed. It is not fair to the taxpayers of Albany to have to support two school systems, when in actuality there is only enough funding for one. The public schools have to take upon the burden of eliminating programs, resources, as well as faculty in order to fund charter schools.

I urge you to please reconsider your veto of Senate Bill 6607B by appropriate action. By doing so you will help protect our next generation of children by allowing them to have the proper resources they need to succeed in school.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Neil D. Breslin'.

Neil D. Breslin
Member of Senate

NDB/kd