



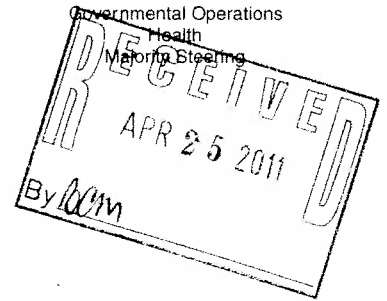
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Assemblywoman 90th District

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April 20, 2011



Lawrence Schwartz
Senior Advisor to Governor Cuomo
Mandate Relief Redesign Team
Executive Chamber
State Capitol, Room 227
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Mr. ~~Schwartz~~ *Loey*,

Recently, I sat down with a representative group from R.E.A.D. (Regional Education Advocacy Districts), an organization of high performing school district school board members and professionals who have been working together since 2004 to identify cost drivers in New York State education and ways to help reduce them. They have been cited in a number of newspaper articles recently focused on mandate relief (see attached).

Specifically, in our meeting, they were sharing with me unfunded mandates they have identified and the price tags associated with them. These are items that do not include those we often discuss, such as the Wicks Law, the Triborough Amendment, the Taylor Act and Special Education Requirements beyond those required by the federal government. R.E.A.D. realizes these mandates already have a lot of attention paid to them as well as great costs associated with them, but may be more difficult to negotiate. They have focused their attention, instead, on the "low hanging fruit" and identifying costs associated with them. Their research shows that cumulatively, these smaller mandates really do add up to significant costs.

I am writing to encourage you to set up a meeting with this group to speak with them directly about their findings and to see how they may be able to propel your task force to recommend action steps that address these smaller but significant pieces of the unfunded mandate pie.

From my district, Karen Zevin, President of the Croton Harmon School Board, and Gloria Colucci, Superintendent of Garrison CSD would be the representatives who will reach out to follow up with you. Please let me know if you are willing to hear some sound research in this area from people who are on the front lines of the issue of unfunded mandates.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Sandy Galef
Assemblywoman, 90th A.D.

cc: R.E.A.D. group
Attachments *c/o Gloria Colucci*