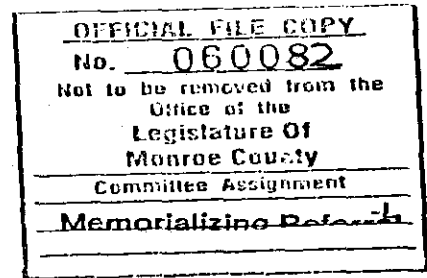




Monroe County Legislature

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LEGISLATOR - DISTRICT 21

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March 13, 2006

To the Honorable  
Monroe County Legislature  
407 County Office Building  
39 West Main Street  
Rochester, New York 14614

Re: **Memorializing the New York State Legislature to Pass and Governor George E. Pataki to Sign the Schools for New York's Future Act**

Honorable Legislators:

New York State is obligated by the state constitution to provide its students with the opportunity for a "sound, basic education." In 2003, the New York State Court of Appeals ruled that the state had failed in its obligation to thousands of New York City public school students, and in 2005 the state was ordered to provide New York City schools with billions of dollars in additional funding.

New York City is not the only part of the state that suffers under the inequities of the current school funding system. The system is dysfunctional. Too many districts struggle with insufficient resources and fail to receive the state aid that they need. The Rochester City School District, for example, which leads the state in child poverty rates, does not receive adequate state aid. Districts cannot plan effectively because the amount of aid that they get from year to year is varying and unpredictable. Certainly, reform is long overdue to ensure that every public school in New York State has access to the educational resources it needs. A reliable funding system must be instituted to determine the amount of state aid that each school district requires.

The Schools for New York's Future Act will increase the amount of state aid available to schools and create a fair and predictable method of allocating that aid, one that is based on students' needs and each district's ability to contribute to the costs of running its schools. No district would see its aid cut. The bill also provides parents and taxpayers with an improved system of accountability to ensure that funds are being used efficiently and in a way that will best benefit students.

New York State must fulfill its obligation to its school children. Therefore we urge you to join us in memorializing the New York State Legislature to pass and Governor Pataki to sign New York State Assembly bill #0100, the Schools for New York's Future Act, which will enact reforms to help all districts in the state to educate their children.

Respectfully submitted,

*Carla M. Palumbo*  
Carla M. Palumbo  
Democratic Leader

*Carrie Andrews*  
Carrie M. Andrews  
Legislator - District 21

*Calvin Lee Jr.*  
Calvin Lee, Jr.  
Assistant Democratic Leader

*Harry B. Bronson*  
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*Glenn J. Gamble*  
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Legislator - District 23

*C. Stephen Eckel*  
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Legislator - District 26

*Willie J. Lightfoot*  
Willie J. Lightfoot  
Legislator - District 27

*José A. Cruz*  
José A. Cruz  
Legislator - District 29