

December 2011

Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver
Legislative Office Bldg. 932
Albany, NY 12248

As a resident of the McGraw Central School District, I write today to express my deep concern of what may happen to my school district. I know our state is facing enormous financial difficulties but if the current distribution of state aid for schools continues as is, it will have a devastating impact on my school district.

New York State's Constitution guarantees all its children a sound basic education. Our founders enacted this to ensure that New York would always have a strong system of public schools. Yet today the government of New York only funds 42% of the per-child cost of education. This continued decline in government spending for educating students continues to shift the costs to taxpayers.

The aid cuts passed onto McGraw last year caused us to lose \$1,148 dollars per student, which was above the state average of \$1,019. While aid cuts to my district may cost some basic programs, aid cuts in other wealthier districts may cause them to lose a fifth language or other electives McGraw students could not have access to under the current funding system. If the aid cuts proposed last year continue this year, students at McGraw will not receive a sound basic education that is promised by our state constitution.

I would like to propose two solutions. One solution is to examine how aid cuts are distributed and redistribute them so that poorer districts are not being hurt as deeply as they are. A second solution may be to cut each district by an equal amount per student.

As a representative in Albany, will you support keeping more aid for poorer districts? Will you support the children and taxpayers in your district who need you and your representation? We need your promise not to support cuts as they have been done in the past.

In closing, the children in McGraw need you to protect them. They deserve to receive an education that is comparable to what other students are receiving in wealthier districts. Thank you for all you have done in the past, but the future of my district calls for you to do things differently.

Respectfully,

December 2011

Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton
Legislative Office Bldg. 555
Albany, NY 12248

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Senator Seward
172 State Street Rm. 430, Capital
Albany, NY 12247

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Governor Andrew M. Cuomo
NY State Capitol Bldg.
Albany, NY 12224

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Assembly Minority Leader Brian Kolb
Legislative Office Bldg. 933
Albany, NY 12248

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Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos
Legislative Office Bldg. Rm. 907
Albany, NY 12247

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