



NASSAU-SUFFOLK SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION, INC.

OFFICE: 219 Bedford Avenue, Bellmore, NY 11710-0385
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 385, Bellmore, NY 11710-0385
JAY L.T. BREAKSTONE, PRESIDENT

Tel (516) 781-2053 Fax (516) 679-0401
e-mail: info@nssba.org
LORRAINE DELLER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

June 4, 2009

TO: Long Island Senate and Assembly Delegation
Governor David A. Paterson
Senate Majority Leader Malcolm Smith
Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver

FROM: Jim Kaden, President
Fran Greenspan, Legislation Chairperson

RE: S. 5684 Padavan (co-sponsors Skelos, Flanagan, Fuschillo, Hannon,
Johnson O., LaValle, Marcellino) - no same as
Repeal provision of Rockefeller Drug Law Reform that seals conviction
records

The law to require fingerprinting and criminal background checks of all prospective school employees has assisted school districts in their responsibility to protect the children in their care. This law allows for discretion in determining whether a prior conviction should impact the decision as to who will be brought into our schools as an employee.

A provision in the recent reforms of the Rockefeller Drug Law would deny school officials the complete history of those seeking employment in positions of respect and trust. Without the ability to accurately assess the potential risk to children posed by an applicant with a criminal history, school boards will nonetheless continue to be held accountable.

On behalf of our 112 member boards of education, the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association asks your support of S. 5684 and introduction of a companion Bill in the Assembly that would repeal the provision granting judicial discretion to prevent school district access to criminal records.