



NASSAU-SUFFOLK SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Mailing Address: P.O. BOX 385, Bellmore, NY 11710-0385
Office: 219 Bedford Avenue, Bellmore, NY 11710-0385
JAY L. T. BREAKSTONE, ESQ., PRESIDENT

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

March 22, 2010

TO: Long Island NYS Assembly Delegation

FROM: Jay L.T. Breakstone, President
James March, Legislation Committee Chair

RE: Mandate Relief Act 2010
A10130 Paulin (same as S5523 Oppenheimer)
Multi-sponsors: Hooper, Lavine, Boyland, Gabryszak, Reilly
Co-sponsors: Thiele, Weisenberg, Fields, Zebrowski, Skartados, Koon,
Jaffee, Gunther, Galef, DelMonte, Castro, Lupardo, Destito, Gordon

On March 15, the NYS Senate overwhelmingly supported a Mandate Relief Act that relieves school districts from a number of legislative impediments to greater cost containment and more efficient use of school resources.

When passed, this Act would endorse and codify this Association's ongoing efforts to bring about greater collaboration and sharing of services among schools and local governments; would authorize boards of education to enter into piggyback contracts with other districts for transportation services; would make some sensible changes in voting regulations for filling BOCES board vacancies; would add Claims Auditing or Internal Auditing Services to the list of BOCES-aidable services; would enable districts to set aside reserve funds for teacher pensions; would defer the effective date of any new unfunded mandate (state law, rule or regulation) that is imposed after the district's budget is adopted until no sooner than the following year; and would limit a contingency budget to a percentage increase over the previous year to the average of the previous five years of the result of one hundred twenty percent multiplied by the percentage increase in consumer price index.

School boards must be freed from constraints that hinder their ability to protect the fiscal and educational integrity of their communities' schools during these hard times. Taxpayers deserve confidence that their school taxes are not directed to sustain arcane regulations and superfluous state mandates.

Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association urges every Long Island member of the NYS Assembly Delegation to press for the swift passage of A10130.

cc: The Honorable Sheldon Silver, Speaker of the Assembly
The Honorable Cathy Nolan, Assembly Education Committee Chair
The Honorable Suzi Oppenheimer, Senate Education Committee Chair
Long Island NYS Senate Delegation