



NASSAU-SUFFOLK SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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July 16, 2008

**To: The Honorable David Paterson
Governor of the State of New York**

**From: Jim Kaden, President
Fran Greenspan, Legislation Committee Chair**

**Re: A.10030 Abbate/S.7474 Lanza
PERMANENT AGENCY SHOP FEE**

On behalf of the 112 boards of education that comprise the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association, we are writing to urge you to veto legislation that would make permanent the agency shop fee deduction from the salary of non-union employees.

In these difficult fiscal times when school districts are under increasing pressure to curb costs, such legislation would further weaken school boards' ability to negotiate fair and balanced contracts with their employees. This is unconscionable. Collective bargaining only works well when both parties know that the negotiating table is the only place where they can achieve their goals. Imposing a permanent mandated agency shop fee would subvert that process.

The advance of this Bill in the midst of ongoing efforts to curtail local school property tax increases goes beyond disingenuousness to outright hypocrisy. This legislation would further burden elected school boards with accountability for the outcomes of employee negotiations that have been undermined from the start by Albany giveaways.

This is not sound legislation. N-SSBA strongly urges a veto.

**CC: Long Island Senate Delegation
Long Island Assembly Delegation**