

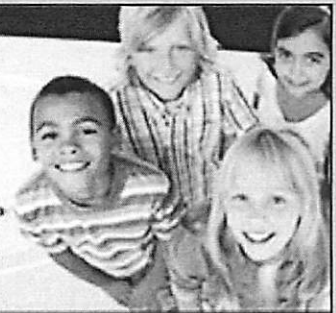
From: NYSSBA Advocacy Alert [mailto:NYSSBAAdvocacyAlert@nyssba.org]

Sent: Friday, August 03, 2012 4:14 PM

Subject: CALL TO ACTION - PUT THIS RESOLUTION ON YOUR AGENDA



ADVOCACY *alert*



NEW YORK STATE SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION • *Better School Boards Lead to Better Student Performance*

August 3, 2012

CALL TO ACTION – ACT NOW – PUT THIS RESOLUTION ON YOUR AGENDA!

Hundreds of school boards passed resolutions urging Governor Cuomo to veto a bill that would have made cultural and family background a determining factor in special education placement decisions. Your voices were heard, and the bill was vetoed. Thank you for your support!

We ask you again to voice your opposition for another ill-conceived, onerous mandate that passed both houses of the legislature during the final days of the legislative session.

A.8291-A/S.5771-A would grant tenure status seniority rights to non-competitive and labor classes of employees during layoffs and rehiring of employees. Districts would be forced to base hiring decisions on seniority rather than on actual need and the best interest of students. This would lead to instances where, for example, an industrial arts teaching aide may be rehired to work with a student needing special educational services rather than a special education teaching aide with less seniority but more experience in the position. This is no way to ensure that the needs of public school children are properly met.

Similar legislation has been vetoed by the governor's predecessors based on the bill's evisceration of the collective bargaining process. The bill would dramatically undermine a district's ability to improve educational programs and services for children while conferring a significant benefit to unions. Additionally, the bill is in direct contravention of state mandate relief efforts to grant greater efficiency of resources and flexibility in staffing decisions.

As of today, the bill has not been delivered to Governor Cuomo; however, once it is delivered he has ten days from that date (excluding Sundays) to make his decision. Take action now by passing a resolution at your next board meeting. Resolutions should then be sent to:

Hon. Andrew Cuomo
Governor
State of New York
Executive Chamber
Albany, NY 12224

D-1

Sample Board Resolution

WHEREAS, during the final days of the legislative session, a bill (A.8291-A/S.5771-A) passed the legislature which would grant tenure status seniority rights to non-competitive and labor classes when there are school layoffs as well as when districts are able to rehire laid-off employees.

And WHEREAS, this bill ties the hands of school districts in making appropriate personnel decisions that best meet the educational needs of its students.

And WHEREAS, school districts need flexibility to efficiently manage their operations with limited resources.

And WHEREAS, this legislation undermines the collective bargaining process by uniformly giving unions a significant benefit without school districts receiving anything in return that could improve educational programs and services for children.

And WHEREAS, this legislation imposes an onerous mandate on school districts in direct contravention of efforts by the Mandate Relief Council to reduce state unfunded mandates on school districts.

Therefore, be it RESOLVED that the Board of Education calls on Governor Andrew Cuomo to veto this onerous and inappropriate legislation.

BE THE CHANGE
for kids



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