

Senator Suzi Oppenheimer
222 Grace Church St. 3rd Floor
Port Chester, NY 10573

Dear Senator Oppenheimer:

As a concerned parent residing in Harrison, I am writing to state my our opposition to Governor's Cuomo's recommended cuts of \$1.5 billion in state aid and the property tax levy cap contained in S 2706.

I am extremely concerned about the effect that the loss in state aid will have on our district and the ongoing impact that a possible 2% property tax levy cap would have as well. The ramifications of this combination will be devastating. Our school district will be forced to eliminate vital programs, increase class size and lay off teachers that are essential to the success of our students. How will my child be expected to compete nationally and internationally if classroom instruction is harmed by increased class size and cutting of core programs? How will children distinguish themselves without the arts, sports and co-curricular activities that give enrich and simulate their education? How can we cut programs and services to our youngest learners and expect them to develop to their full potential?

I am also a New York taxpayer and bear the burden of the costs of living in New York, including property taxes – a burden I would like to see controlled and reduced. Cuts in state aid and a property levy cap will not deliver the expected results or address the economic realities that have led to the past increases in property taxes and that continue to push up the cost of public school education in New York up. The legislature must act to reduce the cost drivers that are outside of the control of the school districts and must find alternatives to property levy caps. We want effective control of property taxes not gimmicks with devastating impacts on education.

The cuts in state aid and tax cap will negatively impact student performance, the quality of our district and the value of our home. Taking these actions will only harm our children and have serious repercussions for our school district that will take years – if not decades – to overcome. This is simply not an acceptable proposition for New York parents and taxpayers.

Sincerely,