



THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

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BRIAN M. KOLB  
Minority Leader

March 31, 2014

Ms. Charlene Harvey  
Superintendent  
Manchester-Shortsville Central School District  
1506 Route 21  
Shortsville, NY 14548

Dear Ms. Harvey:

Thank you for reaching out to me through the joint letter from the Wayne-Finger Lakes Superintendents' Association expressing your concerns over the current fiscal impact of local property-taxes and the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA). It is a pleasure to hear from you.

I agree that the legislature's inability to restore the GEA is having large-scale detrimental impacts on our school districts and local residents. Furthermore, these GEA cuts are causing funding shortages which force school districts to raise property-taxes on local residents. Unfunded mandates of this kind are crippling our local communities and continue to be a top priority of the Assembly Minority Conference during this year's budget deliberations and legislative session.

You will be pleased to know that I am in favor of Assemblywoman Corwin's Bill, A.8295, that would require the state to phase out the GEA in three years. I will continue to negotiate with the governor and Assembly Majority to get back the full amount of education money that was unfairly taken from our school districts. We cannot force our school districts to pay the price for irresponsible spending in the legislature.

Furthermore, I have introduced Assembly Bill 1570, which would prohibit any new unfunded state mandates on school districts and relieve them of fiscal stress. Also, my "Taxpayer Protection and Mandate Relief Act," Assembly Bill 6546, would limit unfunded state mandates on local governments and school districts; thus preventing the rise of property taxes. I will continue to advocate for New York's school districts, teachers, parents, and students to ensure that our children have access to the highest quality education possible. Rest assured I will keep your concerns in mind as we progress through this year's budget deliberations and legislative session.

Thank you again for writing me. If I can be of any further assistance in the future, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

**Brian M. Kolb**  
Assembly Minority Leader

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