

Act to Protect Public Schools and Stop Diversion of Public Education Dollars!

Call Governor Cuomo and Your Assemblymember to Tell Them to Reject Senate's Education Investment Tax Credit

The League of Women Voters, the New York Civil Liberties Union, public education advocates, and labor organizations gathered at the Capitol yesterday to call on Governor Cuomo and Assembly Speaker Silver to stand firm against the Senate's Education Investment Incentive Act. The state Senate's budget provision would divert \$675¹ million of state tax revenue to provide dollar-for-dollar tax credits to individuals and corporations that give money to the school of *their choice*, be it a 1) religious, 2) secular private, 3) charter or 4) non-profit supporting a public school.² The bill allows an undemocratic, first-come, first-serve insider process, with no gating mechanism to prevent a concentration of \$1 million donations to no more than 150 schools!³ The tax credits would drain money from the state's general fund, harming already underfunded public education, and create a special class of education investors with significant influence in shaping education policy and funding direction. **Now we need you to help us stop this hit on public education!**

Call Governor Cuomo (518) 474-8390 and your assemblymember today and tell them:

- New York cannot afford to lose tax dollars while public schools are starved for resources
- Public dollars should be distributed equitably for public education, not skewed toward a selective group of lucky schools
- The donations do not increase support for public education
- Tax credits, unlike charitable donations, provide extra state tax relief to high income bracket individuals and corporations

See our website, lwwny.org, and yesterday's press release linked below for more info:

[League Joins Education Advocates Concerning Education Investment Incentive Act](#)

[1] \$150 million in 2015, \$225 million in 2016, and \$300 million in 2017 as per S 6459-C, Section JJJ of the Senate's one-house bill as passed March 15, 2014.

[2] Not all schools have these—wealthier districts are more likely to have education foundations already established.

[3] Tax credits up to \$1 million per taxpayer are allowed. Half of the funds are earmarked for private schools, half for public. There is no assurance that the financial need of the targeted school will be taken into consideration.