February 28, 2020

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo

Governor of New York State

NYS State Capitol Building

Albany, NY 12224

Governor Cuomo,

As Long Islanders, we commit to pay our taxes, with the expectation that our tax dollars are appropriately used to fund our public schools. As you are aware, in 2007 funding in the form of Foundation Aid was promised and allocated to provide increased funding to school districts, especially those with the highest needs; however, when a financial crisis emerged in 2008, Foundation Aid was frozen. And, although New York State is no longer in crisis, school districts have yet to receive the Foundation Aid that is rightfully theirs.

The children, the community, and the taxpayers of the **Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District** are owed **$8,302,901** in funding from New York State for the 2019-2020 school year. When multiplied by the ten years that Foundation Aid was withheld, tax payers across the state are owed significant amounts of school funding.

Although I write this letter as an employee of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District, many districts are owed this important funding. When all districts get the funding they need to improve the services they provide, especially to students that live in impoverished areas, all New Yorkers benefit.

Ignoring the promises of the past will negatively impact children in the future. Our children and schools are being robbed of what is rightfully theirs. Without the proper funding, class size will increase and programs will be cut. The quality public education that we as Long Islanders, as New Yorkers, expect and pay for, will erode.

Long Island pays its fair share to ensure that public schools provide a comprehensive education for ALL students. **New York State must do the right thing and honor its promises and fund all schools what they are owed.**

Sincerely,

Signature

Print Name

Address