



Joel I. Klein, Chancellor



CHRISTINE C. QUINN
SPEAKER

June 22, 2010

Dear Senator:

We are writing to express our strong support for the S.1987 (Duane) /A.3661 (O'Donnell), otherwise known as the Dignity for All Students Act. No young person should fear going to school because he or she will be harassed. This critical piece of legislation would help ensure that.

The New York City public school system has the most ethnically diverse student population in the nation. Recognizing its large and diverse student population, the New York City Department of Education has longstanding policies prohibiting harassment and discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, gender and sexual orientation.

A school environment free of bullying and harassment is essential to the academic success of every child. By directing the Commissioner of Education to establish the appropriate policies and procedures for addressing bias-based harassment in schools across New York State, this law would help ensure that our schools are places in which every child can fulfill his or her academic potential.

The goals and objectives of the proposed legislation reflect the same values promoted by the New York City Department of Education and the New York City Council. Accordingly, we urge the New York State Legislature to approve the Dignity for All Students Act.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Joel I. Klein
Chancellor
NYC Dept. of Education

Christine C. Quinn
Speaker
NYC Council

Robert Jackson
Chair, Education Committee
NYC Council

Helen Diane Foster
Chair, State & Fed. Leg. Committee
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