



REBECCA A. SEAWRIGHT  
Assembly Member 76<sup>th</sup> District

THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

CHAIR  
Subcommittee on  
Consumer Fraud Protection

COMMITTEES  
Banks  
Consumer Affairs and Protection  
Corporations, Authorities  
and Commissions  
Judiciary  
Tourism, Parks, Arts  
and Sports Development

December 7, 2015

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of New York State  
Executive Chamber  
State Capitol – Room 239  
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

I write in strong support of A5370A, regarding state assistance to The State University of New York and for The City University of New York, which has been transmitted to you for review and action.

This legislation, which I voted for, would provide for a genuine “Maintenance of Effort” (MOE) on the part of New York State for SUNY and CUNY. It would cover basic operating costs for these essential higher education systems.

Both Universities are providing high quality educational opportunities to communities across New York State through colleges that have experienced growing enrollment levels. This means that the faculties and staffs are doing more with less, in a more competitive economy than ever before where college access and credentials are necessities for the students and families we represent.

We must not shortchange our support of public higher education, This would only ensure that services to tuition-paying students will be reduced.

The legislation was overwhelmingly supported by both the State Assembly and the State Senate, an indication of its broad endorsement. It would also send an important message to current and prospective donors and other philanthropic organizations that the State is meeting its responsibilities to assure a foundation of support for its public colleges and universities.

We need alumni and others to step up and build further upon the State’s investment in its future. We stand a much better chance of maximizing such support when the costs of fringe benefits or rentals or salary increments are properly supported by the State.

Again, I strongly urge you to sign this bill.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca A. Seawright". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R' and a stylized 'S'.

Rebecca A. Seawright  
New York State Assembly Member

cc:

Karen Magee, President, New York State United Teachers  
Barbara Bowen, President, Professional Staff Conference CUNY  
Frederick E. Kowal, President, United University Professions SUNY