

"We Are Our Children's Lobbyists – We Are The Parents"

Dear Governor Cuomo,

During your 2012 State of the State address, you stated that you will “wage a campaign to put students first, and to remind us that the purpose of public education is to help children grow, not to grow the public education bureaucracy.”

I agree with your statement and remind you that parents are lobbying for our children's education every day, every week, every month and every year. We lobby against budget cuts that hurt our schools; we lobby against unfair policies that promote the privatization of public schools; we lobby for quality instruction – not misleading test scores; we lobby for the programs that will enable our children to receive a world class education and make great contributions to our society, and we lobby for our own rights as parents.

I am writing to you, therefore, first to request that you include a significant number of parents on your proposed Education Commission. I don't want hedge fund managers. I don't want public education privatizers. I want real, caring public school parents willing to hold everyone accountable for our children's learning.

I am also writing to request an apology for excluding parents as our children's lobbyists from your State of the State address. You are a parent; I'm sure you understand how such an oversight can be painful to parents and misunderstood politically.

Governor Cuomo, I look forward to working with you for our children.

Sincerely,
[Your name]

Letter is posted on line and may be signed at:

<http://www.change.org/petitions/hey-governor-cuomo-we-are-our-childrens-lobbyists>