

Legislative Advocacy Flyer

The purpose of this flyer is to inform our community of the ways in which you can help us advocate for legislation that would allow for us to provide additional safety measures in our District.

The Wappingers CSD has been working very closely with our State Representatives (Assemblyman Kieran Michael Lalor & Senator Sue Serino) in an effort to advocate for an exemption for School Safety Personnel (SSP) from the New York State Tax Cap Legislation (NYSTCL). The NYSTCL limits how much the District can raise taxes from one year to the next. While we understand the need to keep our costs down, it does at times, make it difficult for us to increase resources in one area without sacrificing programs or services in another.

With growing concerns in school safety, we believe it is imperative for us to add and maintain pertinent safety measures in schools, including individuals who are appropriately trained to provide security services. We currently face limitations in doing so under the current NYSTCL. In order for us to overcome these limitations we believe that school safety personnel should be exempt from the NYSTCL. The legislation for this specific exemption has already been drafted, but has stalled in our State Government.

If you wish to do so, we ask that you please contact our State Legislators and ask that they do their part to bring this bill to a vote in the State Senate and Assembly. Below you will find sample language that you can use to help you advocate in this effort. Below the sample language you will find the contact information for the Senate & Assembly Offices that can best take action on this important legislation. You may also leave your contact information with their offices so that you may be provided with updates to the Bill.

“Hello, my name is _____. I am calling to advocate for [*Senator/Assembly Member’s name*] to work on passing [*Senate Bill S3008 or Assembly Bill A1836*] in the *Senate/Assembly*. I believe this bill is important for the safety of our students, as it could help my school district provide safety measures such as security personnel, security training, safety devices or other improvements. These safety measures would be exempt from the school district tax cap and will allow school districts to make necessary decisions based on their own needs. I thank you for your time and urge [*Senator/Assembly member’s name*] to do all that he/she can to help move this bill forward for the safety of all students in New York State.”

Here is the contact information for the Senate & Assembly Education Committee Chairs. The first two individuals currently lead the committees in charge of reviewing this legislation and making a recommendation to put it out for vote.

Senate Bill S3008

Senator Shelley Mayer (Education Committee Chair): email: smayer@nysenate.gov or phone: 518-455-2031

Assembly Bill A1836

Assemblyman Michael Benedetto (Education Committee Chair): email: benedettom@nyassembly.gov or phone: 518-455-5296

The two Senate members below supported the original Bill, the first one is the Bill sponsor.

Senate Bill S3008

Senator Rich Funke: email: Funke@nysenate.gov or phone: 518-455-2215

Senator Fred Akshar: email: akshar@nysenate.gov or phone: 518-455-2677

The two Assembly members below supported the original Bill, the first one is the Bill sponsor.

Assembly Bill A1836

Assemblyman Aileen Gunther: email: GuntheA@nyassembly.gov or phone: 518-455-5355

Assemblyman Ellen Jaffee: email: JaffeeE@nyassembly.gov or phone: 518-455-5118