

Date

Name

Address:

Dear.....

I am writing to you in support of a number of bills, A03281/S3301 and A05506/S1272 relating to gifted education. These bills will require that all pre-service teachers receive a dedicated three-credit course in gifted education **before** receiving certification. These bills will also ensure that all students who are identified as gifted and talented by their school districts receive sufficient appropriate educational opportunities that would include services delivered by a certified gifted teacher along with expanded acceleration opportunities for grades 1, 3, 5. (Acceleration is currently only required in grade 8 in NYS). These bills would also include \$1,000,000 to help with the costs of training the teachers.

In addition, I am writing to garner your support for bills A05507/S1273. These bills ensure sufficient appropriate education for twice exceptional gifted students. This category of special education student often does not receive the education they need to thrive. Specialized teaching methods and approaches are needed for these students who are both gifted and have learning difficulties. In addition, this act calls for the education commissioner to establish an advisory council consisting of at least ten members on the education of gifted students and twice- exceptional pupils.

Passage of these bills is critical to move forward the opportunity to provide both appropriate instructional opportunities and educational equity for the intellectually gifted students from all areas of New York State in every school district, particularly in these tight budget times when schools districts remove all services not protected with legislation.

The attached fact sheet indicates the status of gifted education across NYS. Please read it to get a fuller sense of why the gifted students in every school district statewide need your support.

I strongly urge and hope that you will support these bills to the fullest extent. High ability students throughout our state are depending on you to help them, receive appropriate educational opportunities that will allow them to reach their full potential.

Sincerely,