

Assemblymember Michael Benedetto  
Chair of Education Committee  
Legislative Office Building 836  
Albany, NY 12248

January 23, 2024

Dear Assemblymember Benedetto:

We are writing to express our concern about the reduction in Foundation Aid in the Governor's budget proposal for next year. As residents of the Long Beach City School District, we have been informed by district leaders that the proposal would reduce Foundation Aid to Long Beach by more than \$4.3 million dollars this year, with additional cuts likely in subsequent years. This would have a devastating effect on our district's programs, and would negatively affect the more than 3,500 students who attend our district schools; nearly 30% of those students live below NYS poverty thresholds.

While we understand the need to make budget adjustments in difficult economic situations, this cut disproportionately affects our district in comparison to neighboring ones, and in fact, to most around the State. These cuts were proposed with no warning and no ability for the district to plan for such a dramatic cut in revenue. Our district, as do most, tries hard to run as efficiently as possible, and respects the State Property Cap as a way to keep taxpayer costs down. We implore you to vote against this cut, and to encourage the State to phase in any subsequent cuts with more notice and transparency.

Thank you.

Sincerely,