



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Ruben Diaz

## Pass KEEP Legislation Now!

RUBEN DIAZ January 31, 2011

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### **Pass KEEP Legislation Now!**

Albany, NY- State Senator Ruben Diaz, Sr. today called on the Legislature to pass the Keep Excellent and Effective Professionals in the classroom (KEEP) Act (S.95), which would ensure that the City's most effective teachers are not laid off in the event of massive budget cuts as is widely anticipated.

"I introduced this bill last year at the request of Mayor Bloomberg, and reintroduced it this year. There is no reason why this bill should not be reported and brought to the floor of the Senate for a vote" remarked Senator Díaz.

"Losing even one teacher will hurt, but losing many teachers simply because they're new to the job threatens our schools and would be devastating to the students in my district who

need their passion, energy, and good ideas,” Senator Diaz said. “If our schools must lay off teachers, the school community must have a say in who stays and who goes,” he continued.

“Now that Mayor Bloomberg has called on Governor Cuomo to end the rule that protects teachers with seniority, regardless of ability, I would suggest that the legislative process is the way to fulfill the Mayor’s request,” stated Senator Díaz.