



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Catharine Young

Senate Passes Bill Protecting Expressions Of Patriotism

CATHARINE YOUNG May 16, 2016

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ALBANY– For many, the National September 11 Memorial Museum in lower Manhattan is a site that stirs deep emotions. Regrettably, the experience for a group of North Carolina school children was blemished after a security guard silenced their singing of our country’s national anthem.

New York City requires a permit for the performance of a musical activity that takes place on public or private land, because it is considered a public demonstration. After the middle schoolers began singing “The Star-Spangled Banner” in the outdoor area, one of the museum’s security guards silenced the youth, saying they needed a permit before they could sing in unison. The encounter was recorded and posted to YouTube.

Legislation co-sponsored by Senator Catharine Young (R,C,I- 57th District) unanimously passed the Senate to exempt the singing of the national anthem or the reciting of the pledge of allegiance from the permitting process.

“The attacks of September 11, 2001 were meant to devastate our country and millions of people around the world were left with a lasting impression. Visiting the memorial is a poignant experience, and many are overwhelmed with a deep sense of patriotism. It is incredibly disheartening that these young people were cut off from expressing their patriotic

feelings, and made to feel like they had done something wrong,” said Senator Young.

“Despite the horrific nature of the attacks, Americans have continued to show resolve against those who wish us ill. By visiting the memorial and expressing our patriotic feelings, we remember the bravery of the emergency responders who rushed into the burning buildings. We honor the efforts of ordinary citizens who helped their coworkers and complete strangers get out alive, and we salute those who fought back against the attackers to keep others safe,” she said.

The bill has now been sent to the Assembly.