

NEW YORK
STATE
SENATE
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247



January 31, 2025

Board of Regents
New York State Education Department
89 Washington Avenue
Board of Regents, Room 110 EB
Albany, New York 12234

Dear Chancellor Young and Members of the Board of Regents:

We write in regard to recent reports that State Education Department (SED) Commissioner of Education, Betty Rosa, recently received a \$155,000 raise, bringing her salary to an astonishing \$489,000. On top of this nearly half a million-dollar salary, it is reported Commissioner Rosa is also collecting a \$120,000 pension. This means that between her salary and her pension, Commissioner Rosa is collecting over \$609,000 in taxpayer money at a time when hard working New Yorkers are struggling to pay their bills and our education bureaucracy fails to deliver to what our students deserve.

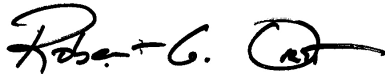
When the median household income in New York State is \$81,000, it is incomprehensible that a raise twice that amount to a public official who was already making four times the median household income was approved by you as board members. Reckless spending such as Commissioner Rosa's raise is just another example of out-of-control spending we are seeing year-after-year in this State, culminating in this year's state budget proposal of a whopping \$252 billion.

To add further insult to injury, Commissioner Rosa is leading a department where policies are failing to improve test scores for New York's children. New York continues to lag the national average in math scores for fourth and eighth graders and is only average in reading scores despite spending more money per pupil than *any* other state in the country. In 2024, New York spent \$36,293 per pupil. To put this into perspective, Florida's students had higher test scores while spending \$9,983 per pupil.

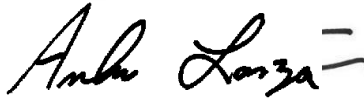
It is critical that SED and the Board of Regents spend every available resource ensuring our children receive the best possible education, instead of lining the pockets of its "higher ups." For

these reasons, we strongly urge you to put our students first and reconsider this unwarranted and offensive pay increase.

Sincerely,



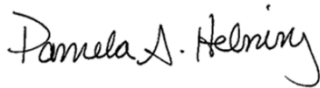
Robert G. Ortt
Senate Minority Leader
62nd District



Senator Andrew Lanza
24th District



Senator Peter Oberacker
51st District



Senator Pam Helming
54th District



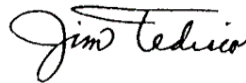
Senator William Weber
38th District



Senator Patricia Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick
9th District



Senator George Borrello
57th District



Senator Jim Tedisco
44th District



Senator Daniel G. Stec
45th District



Senator Patrick Gallivan
60th District



Senator Alexis Weik
8th District



Senator Steve Chan
17th District



Senator Mario Mattera
2nd District



Senator Mark Walczyk
49th District



Senator Jake Ashby
43rd District



Senator Steve Rhoads
5th District