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September 9, 2019

The Honorable Denise Sher
100 Supreme Court Drive
Mineola, NY 11501

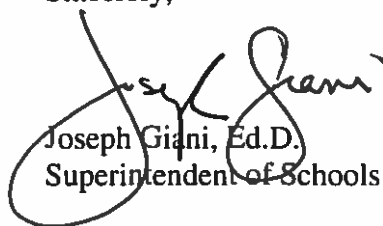
Dear Honorable Sher:

I write as a result of Public Law 2164, as amended by Chapter 35 of the Laws of 2019. Specifically, the elimination of religious exemptions to immunization requirements for school-age children. My intention is not to take a political stance on this issue, rather, express my understanding and concern of the short timeline families have to adjust to this change.

I understand when similar actions had been taken in other states, families had more time to plan and adjust. New York's law now requires families to comply in a much more expedited manner. Under the new requirements, all children must now receive the first dose in each immunization series within the first 14 days of school, unless they have an approved medical exemption. Non-compliance means the student cannot attend school. My concern is that this adopted timeframe may not allow families adequate time to plan or consult with medical professionals in order to make an informed decision on how to proceed. As a result, children may be excluded from school and miss valuable instruction while families gather information and advice so they may make an informed decision.

As such, I support the call for our legislators to consider revising the timeline to fall more in line with what other states have adopted and to allow families more time to prepare and consult with their physicians. A longer timeline for implementation would be appropriate, and I support a plan that will keep our children in school and on track to receiving the best education possible.

Sincerely,


Joseph Giani, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools