



MICHAEL REILLY
Assemblyman 62nd District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
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COMMITTEES
Aging
Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
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Housing

November 30, 2020

Hon. Michael Benedetto
Member of the New York State Assembly
Chairman of the Committee on Education
3602 E. Tremont Avenue, Suite 201
Bronx, NY 10465

Dear Chairman Benedetto,

I hope this letter finds you and your family in good health during these most difficult of times.

I was recently made aware that the New York State Assembly’s Committee on Education, which you are Chair of, plans to hold formal hearings later this month as to whether Mayoral Control of the New York City public school system should be extended beyond 2022. While I am not a member of your committee, I trust that you are aware of my interest in this matter, especially given our past conversations and my history as President of Community Education Council 31 on Staten Island. As a former member of that body, and as the parent of two public school students, I am glad that the State Legislature is open to having a public conversation about this crucial mechanism of self-governance that impacts more than 1.1 million of our city’s youth.

In 2019, when the State Legislature last took action to extend Mayoral Control, I introduced legislation aimed at reforming Mayoral Control, or, more specifically, the Department of Education’s governing body known as the Panel for Educational Policy. My legislation, A. 7339 would:

- Reduce the Mayor’s influence over the Panel for Educational Policy by limiting the Mayor’s number of appointments to just seven (out of 13), while permitting the New York City Public Advocate to make one appointment, as well as one appointment each from the city’s five Borough Presidents.

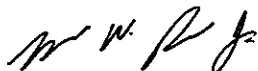
- Implement a two-year term limit for an unlimited number of terms for members of the Panel for Educational Policy.
- Require mandatory review of Mayoral Control by the Public Advocate and Borough Presidents annually and that report on the effectiveness of Mayoral Control be issued by such officials every five years.
- Provide members of the Panel for Educational Policy with protection from unjust removal by requiring that recommendations for removal be approved by a majority vote of the other 12 members, as opposed to serving at the pleasure of their appointing authority.
- Reduce political influence by requiring four Mayoral appointments to be public school parents, up from only two, and requiring that three appointments have expertise in an area that will assist the Panel for Educational Policy in achieving its purpose.

As the Assembly's Committee on Education moves forward with this hearing, I ask, with the greatest respect, that you and other committee members please consider some of the policy recommendations that I have offered on this subject. I have been advocating to reform Mayoral Control for more than a decade, suggesting reforms to this vital mechanism of self-governance since the Bloomberg Administration.

Many of the issues we legislate in Albany are dogged by partisan debate, but on this one issue, there most certainly should be none. As the arbiters of the nation's largest public school system it is incumbent upon us to set the standard for this style of self-governance. This is our chance to affect real change.

I have enclosed, with this correspondence, a copy of my legislation. I sincerely appreciate your attention to this letter and consideration of my request. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Yours in Service,



Michael Reilly
Member of Assembly
62nd District