



PORT WASHINGTON Union Free School District

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April 29, 2020

Dear Congressman Thomas Suozzi, Senator Charles Schumer, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand,

I hope this communication finds you and your families well. As a New Yorker, father, and the proud Superintendent of the Port Washington Union Free School District, I am writing to express my utmost concern in regard to the overwhelmingly negative financial impact of COVID-19 on my school district, as well as the 732 districts statewide.

As we have witnessed, the coronavirus has had an unprecedented negative effect on emotions, public health, and economics nationwide, especially in New York State. If the federal government does not provide New York State with additional federal Covid-19 stimulus funding, our students' education will suffer immensely, hindering the PWUFSD's ability—and districts statewide—to continue fostering the creative and innovative thinking of our next generation and beyond.

Governor Cuomo's public discussion of a 20% anticipated state aid reduction equates to a loss of \$2,113,488 for the PWUFSD. As a result, severe teacher and support staff layoffs would lead to significantly increased class sizes; and extracurricular activities for K-12, high school and middle school athletic programs, ELL, special education, and social/emotional support programs would have to be eliminated. Frankly, a substantial reduction of aid would be catastrophic to our programs and our ability to meet the instructional and non-instructional needs of our students.

We recognize that restoring school funding is an urgent priority for you. Our children, and by extension, our school districts, need your success in directing the necessary funding to New York State. On behalf of myself and the Port Washington Union Free School District as a whole, we thank you for your continued advocacy, support and partnership for our children and education.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Hynes".

Michael J. Hynes, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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