

January 25, 2008

Steven Dershowitz
10 Irene Lane South
Plainview, NY 11803

Senator Kemp Hannon
224 7th St
Garden City, NY 11530

Dear Mr. Hannon:

I am writing to you as the President of the Project Challenge Parent Association in the Plainview Old-Bethpage School District. The mission of our organization is to “promote and support gifted education and related activities” within the District. Towards this end, we wish to make you aware of our strong support for Assembly bill A01502 which proposes to “to ensure the provisions of educational services for gifted and talented students.”

The justifications listed for the bill coincide exactly with the statements we have been making to our Administration and Board of Education. We were especially drawn to the justification paragraph in which the author states that education is not a zero sum game; that providing funds to comply with the No Child Left Behind legislation does not mean that funds need to be withheld from educating special needs students at the other end of the academic spectrum.

It is vital that our teachers become aware of how to properly recognize and educate our gifted and talented children. The undersigned members of the organization and I believe that bill A01502 reflects the needs of our children and we urge you to sponsor a similar bill in the Senate.

We are sending a similar letter to Assemblyman Lavine. We hope that with his support in the Assembly and your support in the Senate, a gifted education bill can pass in the near future.

Sincerely,

Steve Dershowitz
President