



MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

S.2017-A (Griffo)

AN ACT to amend the general municipal law and the education law, in relation to prohibiting the establishment of certain programs mandated for municipal corporations and school districts unless such programs are fully funded by the state; and to establish the New York state mandate review council

The Capital Region Chamber, representing 2,500 businesses and organizations from throughout the Capital Region that employ more than 150,000 area residents, supports S.2017-A, which would require any state mandated program imposed on municipalities and school districts to be funded by the state.

The State of New York often establishes and requires programs that are implemented at the local level. However, far too often these programs are not funded through the state budget. These unfunded state mandates shift the responsibility and the cost of these programs from the state to local officials. As a consequence, the burden on local property taxpayers is increased.

Unfunded mandates and their associated higher property taxes impede economic development efforts and place New York State at a competitive disadvantage in terms of business attraction and retention.

The Chamber has long opposed unfunded state mandates. We believe that if New York State wishes to improve its business climate, it must provide meaningful mandate relief for our local governments and reduce the burden on our local property taxpayers. This legislation seeks to accomplish both. For these reasons, the Capital Region Chamber recommends the passage of this legislation.

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