



Smithtown Central School District

26 New York Avenue, Smithtown, New York 11787

Mark Secaur, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
(631) 382-2006

October 23, 2025

Congressman Nick LaLota
515 Hauppauge Road, #3b
Hauppauge, NY 11788

Dear Congressman LaLota,

We are writing to you today on behalf of the Smithtown Central School District. Please know that we are a non-partisan entity. Our politics are solely focused on the needs of the youth in Smithtown.

The United States of America is built upon strong pillars, including the right to a free and appropriate public education. Our public schools provide numerous pathways for our youth to enter the workforce, continue their studies at the college and university level, and/or join the military. The function that we serve ensures that knowledgeable, skilled, and trained young people are well prepared for the future of their choosing.

As I am sure you are aware, public school districts rely heavily on both federal and state funding. This funding is critical in order to provide our youth with the best possible public education and prepare our young people for their future. Our district is very concerned about current and future levels of federal funding, including Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Title I, II, and IV grants and funding for special education (IDEA, 611 619 grants). It is imperative that federal funding for public education is not cut or diminished. Additionally, it is our understanding that Congress is considering significant cuts to Medicaid that would result in very significant cuts to New York State on the order of \$3 billion. After Medicaid, funding for public education is the second largest item in the state budget. Should Medicaid be cut at this level, not only will this impact the families we serve, but this will certainly have an indirect impact on funding for public school districts in New York. We urge you to have the needs of this state's youth at the forefront of your decision-making in the coming weeks and months in Congress.

To illustrate the potential impact of the proposed federal budget cuts on the Smithtown Central School District, The Education Law Center (ELC) estimates that our district would lose \$398,210 in funding

should the proposed federal budget cuts take place. To illustrate the potential impact of these cuts, this would be equivalent to:

- 6.13 First Year Teachers
- or
- 1,000 Chromebooks

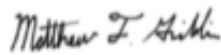
As you know, New York's school districts are undergoing fiscal stress due to unsustainable cost drivers (e.g. Health Care, Transportation, Mandated Services, etc.) in the present tax cap environment. Any reduction in federal and/or state funding would cause significant hardship for all districts and would negatively impact the programs, supports and services that make our school districts desirable places to raise a family.

Thank you again for keeping our youth and public education as one of your top priorities.

Sincerely,



Mark Secaur, Ed. D.
Superintendent



Matthew Gribbin
BOE President



Kevin Craine
BOE Vice President



Emily Cianci
BOE Trustee



Dana Fritch
BOE Trustee



Brandon Solomon
BOE Trustee



Bernadette Ackerman
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Theresa Donohue
BOE Trustee