Talking Points

The Education Budget and Article VII

A.3006/S.4006

I wanted to let you know that my state association supports the:

increase in Foundation Aid by $2.7 billion. Foundation Aid provides an important financial lift for school districts with a higher need for financial support by allocating State funds equitably to all school districts based on student need, community wealth, and regional cost differences. This is important for giving kids a better opportunity.

In addition, the State Education Department should be further charged with developing plans for continued programs to foster greater equity in education.

We support the proposal to add $125 million to state funding for full-day prekindergarten programs for four-year-old children.

Full-day kindergarten provides important opportunities for social, cognitive and behavioral development at an early formative year.

Occupational therapy helps children to fulfill their role as students by supporting their academic achievement and promoting positive behaviors necessary for learning. School occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants provide interventions that improve physical, behavioral, cognitive and social skills that leads to successful educational performance.
The Health Budget and Article VII

A.3007/S.4007

We also support budget proposals:

To expand the Medicaid Buy-in Program for New Yorkers with Disabilities so that more New Yorkers with disabilities can work and still qualify for Medicaid coverage.

The Medicaid program provides coverage for durable medical equipment and support services that commercial insurance plans do not provide. These benefits help individuals with disabilities to live and work in the community.

We support expanding Medicaid Coverage of Preventative Health Services.

Such as screening for children with Adverse Childhood Experiences, coverage of spinal muscular atrophy prenatal screening and expanding screening for social determinants of health.

Research regarding childhood development shows that adverse childhood experiences and social determinants of health have a severe effect on the future psychological, social and occupational functioning of the individual. Identifying these factors can help direct further interventions.

Increasing Medicaid reimbursement rates for school-based health centers, which increase access to primary care and other health services for children and their families. Educational settings, especially in lower socio-economic communities, have become an integral point of contact for children in need of primary care and health care.

Poverty and poor housing have a significant impact on the health and functioning of individuals and communities. At the same time, I would also point out that an individual’s access to opportunities to engage in productive and meaningful occupations will also have a profound effect on that person’s long-term health and functioning in our communities.

Would the Assembly member/Senator be able to support these proposals in the budget?