

STATEMENT OF ASSEMBLYWOMAN JANET L. DUPREY

October 30, 2014

As a strong supporter and advocate of our public school system, I am disturbed by Governor Cuomo's statement that our public schools are a 'monopoly'. I am pleased to work with the teachers, administrators, school boards, parents and students in a continuous effort to meet the needs of our public schools throughout the North Country and the State.

I stand by my often stated position that the implementation by the State Education Department and the Board of Regents was terribly flawed for both the standardized testing and teacher/principal evaluation systems. We must fix these problems.

The Legislature passed bills placing a moratorium on using the scores of standardized tests in placement of students in recognition the tests are unfair and in many cases not age or grade appropriate for our students, teachers and schools. The Governor signed this legislation into Law.

During this past session, the Legislature passed by nearly unanimous vote similar legislation to temporarily stop the use of Common-Core state assessments for the purposes of teacher evaluations. I meet on a regular basis with teachers at all grade levels who are willing and in many instances anxious to be evaluated as professionals under a system that fairly provides the appropriate standards for growth and improvement. As of today, the Governor has not signed the legislation into Law, but I certainly hope he does so expeditiously.

Looking ahead to our next session in January, we must continue to address the flaws of the standardized testing system by reducing the reliance and requirements to teach to the test. It is critical that we remember our students are not experiments to be used subject to the whim of big business but are the future leaders of tomorrow who deserve to be taught in our public schools by qualified, dedicated and compassionate teachers at every grade level. I am proud of the 18 public school districts in my Assembly District, and I look forward to working with the parents, students, teachers, administrators and school boards to assure each and every student becomes all he or she is capable of.