



DIOCESE OF BUFFALO  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

May 4, 2015

The Honorable Sean Ryan  
New York State Assembly  
Room 540  
Legislative Office Building  
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Assemblyman Ryan:

On behalf of the tuition-paying families you represent, I write to impress upon you the importance of the Education Tax Credit legislation and to implore you to join your many colleagues in co-sponsoring the bill and seeking its enactment this session.

As you know, the measure would increase the current tax incentive to encourage greater donations to help our public schools as well as families seeking scholarships to attend religious and independent schools. Because this legislation will help all children regardless of where they attend school, it has the support of the Governor, a majority of your colleagues in the legislature, and some 150 community, business, education, faith and labor organizations throughout the state.

You and your colleagues have enacted more than \$5 billion in tax relief and incentives to spur economic development and investments in such areas as college tuition and child care; the production of movies, beer, yogurt, solar and wind energy; the hiring of veterans; and the purchase of automatic defibrillators, energy-efficient appliances, and luxury yachts – just to name a few. Clearly, an education tax credit that spurs investment in our children, schools and teachers is no less worthy.

Moreover, of the \$58 billion being spent on pre-k to 12 education in New York from federal, state and local taxes, 99 percent is devoted to public schools. Clearly with a budget this size, there is room for a modest program to help your tuition-paying constituents who also pay their fair share of taxes to support public schools.

While I applaud your commitment to the public schools, teachers, and students you represent in Albany, I urge you recognize the needs of tuition-paying families who are no less deserving of your representation. Join your colleagues by co-sponsoring the Education Tax Credit proposal and seeking its enactment before the close of this legislative session. When school lets out in June, we hope to be able to report that you stood with **all** the families you represent.

I offer my prayers for you, your family and the work you do on behalf of those you represent.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Richard J. Malone". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend Richard J. Malone  
Bishop of Buffalo

P.S. I am taking the liberty of sharing a copy of this letter with each of the Catholic school parents, teachers, administrators and key supporters within your legislative district so that they too will know that we are urging you to fight for them as well.