



COMMUNITY BOARD ELEVEN

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Nilsa Orama
Chair

Angel D. Mescaín
District Manager

March 23, 2021

Honorable Andrew Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Re: New York State Senate Bill S4461

Dear Governor Cuomo,

Community Board 11 supports Senate Bill S4461, which enacts The New Deal For CUNY. This legislation restores free tuition and establishes minimum staff-to-student ratios for mental health counselors, academic advisors and full-time faculty at CUNY over a period of five years.

The State's current practice of funding CUNY with yearly tuition hikes has left CUNY vastly underfunded and left CUNY's student body without the support they need to succeed. Waiving tuition and establishing minimum staff-to-student ratios would reestablish CUNY as an engine for social and economic mobility for low-income New Yorkers and people of color.

Communities like ours in East Harlem were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our economic recovery from the COVID crisis relies on A New Deal for CUNY. This landmark legislation will transform New York's education system, economy and society, positioning us to recover stronger and better from this crisis. Investment in CUNY is a key to a just future for New York.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Nilsa Orama
Chair
Community Board 11

cc: Hon. Brian Benjamin, New York State Senate (via email)
Hon. José M. Serrano, New York State Senate (via email)

Hon. Robert Rodriguez, New York State Assembly (via email)
Hon. Inez Dickens, New York State Assembly (via email)
Hon. Toby Ann Stavisky, New York State Senate Higher Education Committee Chair (via email)
Hon. Deborah Glick, New York State Assembly Higher Education Committee Chair (via email)
Hon. Diana Ayala, New York City Council (via email)
Hon. Bill Perkins, New York City Council (via email)
Hon. Gale A. Brewer, Manhattan Borough President (via email)
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, U.S House of Representatives (via email)
Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez, City University of New York (via email)
David Giordano, Community Board 11 (via email)
Judith Febbraro, Community Board 11 (via email)