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August 9, 2007

Sean M. Walsh, President
Queens Civic Congress, Inc.
Post Office Box 238
Flushing, NY 11363

Re: CIVIC 2030

Dear Sean:

Thank you for sending me the Queens Civic Congress Comprehensive Platform. It is both excellent and thorough in content and direction.

I must however, comment on that section of the report (page 26) dealing with Education. The facts stated are both incorrect and misleading and do not reflect more recent actions by the state legislature. As a primary proponent of significant increases in State funding I believe it is important that everyone understand fully what has been accomplished!

Here are some facts:

The total Number of Public School Children
In New York State - 2,740,000
In New York City - 1,240,078
NYC Percentage - 38.3%

NYS Aid to Education - \$17,819,000.00
NYC State aid in Current Budget - \$ 7,240,338.00
NYC Percentage - 40.6%

It is also important to note the mayor's 13.3 billion dollar capital plan, well under way in its implementation was made possible by the state providing 50% of the amount.

What is even more significant is the State commitment in State Aid next year and beyond. All of this is in line with the Campaign for Fiscal Equity settlement.