



**LOWER HUDSON EDUCATION COALITION**

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August 17, 2018

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of New York State  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12244

Re: S.6597-B, Serino/ A.8382-B, Galef

An act to amend the education law, in relation to requiring immediate notification of the filing of an accusatory instrument alleging a sex offense by an employee

Dear Governor Cuomo,

The Lower Hudson Education Coalition (LHEC) *strongly supports* the above referenced legislation and urges your approval.

Under current law, there is a glaring loophole in which employees hired prior to 2001 and the enactment of the Schools Against Violence in Education Act could go undetected if they were arrested, as there is no official mechanism to alert the school district of this arrest.

This was the case in 2017 when a longtime Ossining Union Free School District custodian was convicted of two misdemeanors and two felonies, including the third-degree rape of a victim under the age of 17. During the course of the trial, the employee continued to work in the school and the administration was only made aware of the situation by an anonymous handwritten note.

By amending the education law to require that a superintendent or school administrator be immediately notified by the district attorney when an accusatory instrument alleging a sex offense has been filed against an employee, this potentially dangerous loophole would be closed and would ensure greater protection of our children.

For these reasons, LHEC supports this legislation and urges your immediate approval.

Sincerely,

Members of the Lower Hudson Education Coalition

Cc: Senator Sue Serino  
Assembly member Sandy Galef  
Alphonso David  
Dan Fuller  
Terry Pratt  
Jamie Frank