

November 28, 2007

The Honorable Eliot Spitzer
Governor
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Spitzer:

Just over a year ago, at its September 2006 meeting, the New York Board of Regents voted to move forward with legislation that would amend the education law and the arts and cultural affairs law to provide formula funding to chartered museums and historical societies that offer verifiable standards-based educational programming to school children and teachers in grades kindergarten through twelve. This legislation, the Cultural and Museum Education Act, is pivotal to bringing museums and other cultural institutions together with schools to provide quality educational programming to children throughout the state. The Regents recently affirmed the CMEA as a reform priority.

The Cultural and Museum Education Act brings together two fundamental elements of the state of New York: our unparalleled cultural resources and our formal system of learning. The act will directly align the work and mission of museums and other cultural institutions with state learning standards and the Regents P-16 Plan for Action by providing formula funding to create educational programming specifically designed to meet the needs of schoolchildren. Museums have already begun the work to reach out to students. Now we ask for your support to continue our mission.

You have made educational excellence and upstate revitalization two of your main priorities for the state government. This act will work to accomplish both. Please act to keep New York's resources focused on your priorities.

I urge you to support the Cultural and Museum Education Act and allow museums to expand their ability to provide educational programming essential to the development of our schoolchildren.

Sincerely,

Anne Older
Chairman of the Board of Trustees
New York State Historical Association

Cc: Manuel Rivera, Paul Francis