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ANGELO SANTABARBARA
Assemblyman 111th District

October 25, 2013

Commissioner John B. King Jr.
New York State Education Department
89 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12234

Commissioner King,

As a member of the Assembly, and as a parent, I believe we need a constructive and civil dialogue about achieving the best possible education for our children. That's why I think that all parents, teachers and school administrators deserve a voice in the discussion about the new common core standards.

Moving forward, it is essential for all forums on Common Core to be structured in a way that allows questions to be answered and concerns to be addressed. These forums should be open and honest, even in the presence of disagreement, and nobody's voice should be stifled. After all, parents and educators speak for the interests of our children, and they experience firsthand the effects of our policies in action.

It is encouraging to hear that these forums will be held in many counties across the state. However, I would like to request that the State Education Department consider scheduling an additional forum in Montgomery County. As you travel the state to engage in this important dialogue with New Yorkers, parents and educators in Montgomery County should have an equal opportunity to participate. We all share a paramount concern for the education and future of our children; I am confident that by working together we can better serve their interests.

If you would like to discuss this issue further, please feel free to contact me by phone at 518-382-2941 or via email at SantabarbaraA@assembly.state.ny.us.

Sincerely,



Angelo Santabarbara
Member of Assembly
111th District