

October 26th, 2021

Re: Media Literacy House Bills A6142, A6153, A6225, & A8222

Dear Assemblyman Michael Benedetto & Committee on Education members,

On behalf of the Media Literacy Now New York Chapter, I am writing today in strong support of Assemblyperson Linda B. Rosenthal's media literacy bills, A6142, A6153, A6225, A8222. These bills will allow for our students to actively build upon their media literacy skills, as well as support our teachers and library media specialists to empower and educate the youth.

Media Literacy Now is a national organization that is leading the grassroots movement to create a public education system that ensures all students learn the 21st century literacy skills they need for health, well-being, economic participation, and citizenship. As we have seen since MLN launched in 2013, there has been extensive support for the efficacy of media literacy and educating our youth.

**UNESCO** has declared media literacy an essential human right. "Empowerment of people through information and media literacy is an important prerequisite for fostering equitable access to information and knowledge, and building inclusive knowledge societies."

**The National Council of Teachers of English** Resolution on Promoting Media Literacy states: "To participate in a global society, we continue to extend our ways of communicating. Viewing and visually representing are a part of our growing consciousness of how people gather and share information."

The **Partnership for 21st Century Skills** states: "To be effective in the 21st century, citizens and workers must be able to exhibit a range of functional and critical thinking skills related to information, media and technology."

**National Council for the Social Studies** position statement on Media Literacy states: "The multimedia age requires new skills for accessing, analyzing, evaluating, creating, and distributing messages within a digital, global, and democratic society."

**College Board Standards for College Success** states: "To be successful in college and in the workplace and to participate effectively in a global society, students are expected to understand the nature of media; to interpret, analyze, and evaluate the media messages they encounter daily; and to create media that expresses a point of view and influence others."

Supporting the House Bills A6142, A6153, A6225, and A8222 is just one step New York State can take to bolster our children's public school education, and to encourage them to participate as thoughtful and productive members of society.

Sincerely,

Jaclyn Siegel  
Media Literacy Now NYS Chapter Leader