

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY  
LEGISLATOR MILLER-WILLIAMS**

**RE: Support for Increased Funding For Bilingual Education in New York State**

WHEREAS, according to a recent article on NPR by Claudio Sanchez, about 1 out of every 10 public school students in the United States, right now, is learning to speak English – nearly 5 million students, they're called ELLs, for "English Language Learners;" and

WHEREAS, approximately 8 percent of students in New York State are English Language Learners, according to the Migration Policy Institute, and educating these people in English, as well as all the other subjects and skills they'll need, is one of the biggest challenges in U.S. public education today; and

WHEREAS, in New York State the overall high school graduation rate is about 78 percent, but for ELL's unfortunately it's a mere 37 percent, according to the National Center for Education Statistics; and

WHEREAS, a group of educators from Western New York, representing the Buffalo Public Schools, local colleges and universities, along with other agencies, recently attended this year's New York State Association for Bilingual Education conference in White Plains, New York; and

WHEREAS, during the conference the educators were informed that the proposed allocation in Governor Cuomo's proposed budget, currently before the State Legislature, funding for bilingual education is far below what the State requires to appropriately support New York State's multilingual learners; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Education Department is requesting significant new funding in the form of \$117 million to properly support our 300,000 multilingual learners across New York State, including well over 5,500 students in the Bilingual Education and ENL (English as a New Language) programs locally.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, that this Honorable Body goes on record to support our multilingual students, and request that Governor Cuomo and members of the New York State Assembly and Senate appropriately fund Bilingual Education and ENL programs in New York State; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that certified copies of this resolution are to be sent to the Honorable Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, all members of the WNY delegation to the New York State Assembly and New York State Senate, and any other parties deemed necessary.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None for this resolution