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THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK**DIANE J. SAVINO**
SENATOR, 23RD DISTRICTINDEPENDENT DEMOCRATIC CONFERENCE
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August 11, 2017

New York State Board of Regents
NYS Education Department
89 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12234

Dear Members of the NYS Board of Regents:

This letter is sent in support of Harlem Hebrew Language Academy's request for renewal and expansion of its public charter. Though the diverse district I represent is in Staten Island, Harlem Hebrew's "sister school," Hebrew Language Academy, is a part of southern Brooklyn / northern Staten Island public school community I have always advocated for. Hebrew Public schools embrace academic success, deep integration, and building a multi-ethnic family of educators, neighborhood activists, students, and families - sincere efforts that create the type of learning community that I value. Importantly, I have been in discussions with Hebrew Public about opening a new public charter school in my district in Staten Island.

Harlem Hebrew is a deeply integrated school in a city grappling with how to thoughtfully tackle school segregation. Its "diverse by design" model, in which students learn in an environment that looks like our wider city and state, encourages both academic and social development. Harlem Hebrew, and other Hebrew Public schools, do not co-locate, and prioritize positive community relations.

I hope Harlem Hebrew's application for charter renewal and expansion meets with your approval. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any comments or questions. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diane J. Savino', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Diane J. Savino
New York State Senator, 23rd District