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July 17, 2017

New York State Board of Regents
NYS Education Department
89 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 11234

To the Members of the Board of Regents,

This letter is sent in support of Harlem Hebrew Language Academy's application to the Education Department, and this Board, for renewal and expansion of its charter. Harlem Hebrew, and the wider family of Hebrew Public Charter Schools, are providing thoughtful, well considered options to families who value diversity, educational accomplishments, and active community engagement. I have been a longtime supporter of the Hebrew Public Charter School community, as they have schools in my part of southern Brooklyn, and am pleased to send this note supporting Harlem Hebrew's growth.

Harlem Hebrew is one of the most integrated schools in New York City, with a student body more diverse than most other schools in Community School District 3, in which Harlem Hebrew is located. Further, 8% of Harlem Hebrew students are English language learners, nearly a quarter are students with special needs, and half are economically disadvantaged. This level integration also occurs at the classroom level.

Expansion of Harlem Hebrew's charter to include 6th, 7th and 8th grades will provide an expectation of consistency and stability that will allow the school to grow its diverse student population. Its 5th graders will rise to 3 more ears in the building, a private space and younger students will have an exciting learning future to look forward to.



I am encouraged to hear that regent Mead has visited Harlem Hebrew, and that Regent Cashin – who I have worked closely with for many years-visited its “sister Brooklyn school” Hebrew Language Academy.

I hope Harlem Hebrew’s application for charter renewal and expansion meets with your approval. Please don’t hesitate to reach out for my office with any questions.

Respectfully,



Martin J. Golden

Member of the State Senate