

What New York's labor, religious and community leaders say about the Education Investment Tax Credit...

Timothy Cardinal Dolan

Archbishop of New York

"Education tax credits will have a significant impact across the entire state, allowing families access to our great Catholic schools, helping our public schools by driving donations toward important programs and activities, and assisting all teachers with their out-of-pocket expenses. Education tax credits are about helping students, and I pray for their sake that our efforts are successful. The time to pass this bill is now. With the support of so many of our state's great labor unions and business leaders, and so many of my brothers and sisters in ministry, I think we have a great chance to do so."

Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio

Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn

The Education Investment Tax Credit is the top priority of the New York State Bishops this year, for a simple reason: If a child cannot access a quality education, whether in a public, religious or charter school, then he or she will not succeed in life. The evidence of this is clear. Good schools lift children out of poverty, and give them a chance. It is time to stop playing politics with the families of our state, and time to pass this necessary bill. I am very grateful for the courage of so many of our union leaders for standing up for their members who have children in non-public schools.

Hector Figueroa

President of 32BJ/SEIU, the nation's largest property service workers union with more than 145,000 members, including 75,000 in New York City

"In our effort to make good quality education accessible to all our children we stand with those who seek to improve our public school system while preserving alternatives that for generations have complemented and strengthened the mission of public education. This legislation increases access for poor and working class children without undermining the resources available to our public schools. We ask the Legislature to support working families and approve the Education Investment Tax Credit as part of this year's state budget, so that opportunities can come even more quickly to our increasingly diverse community of children."

Patrick J. Lynch

President, NYPD Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, the nation's largest law enforcement union, representing more than 40,000 NYPD officers

"This legislation will help alleviate the burden of working families confronting the economic challenge of providing the best quality education they can for their children, many of whom will be our future police officers and other first-responders who serve and protect New Yorkers. We stand with Cardinal Dolan, Bishop DiMarzio and other religious, community and labor leaders to urge Governor Cuomo and the Legislature to help working families and communities of need by including this Tax Credit in the new State Budget."

Ed Mullins

President, NYPD Sergeants Benevolent Association, with 11,000 active and retired sergeants

"Helping children with the best education possible is a valuable community service and is why we strongly support this legislation to be part of the next State Budget. So many of our civic leaders today can point to their K-12 education that made the difference for them. Encouraging charitable donations for scholarships is an innovative way prepare the next generation of leaders for our City and State."

Tom Mungeer

President, NYS Troopers PBA, which represents 6,000 active and retired Troopers

"Encouraging more charitable donations for more student scholarships, as this legislation does, will enable children from low-income and middle-class families, including the children of first-responders, to attend the school that best meets their needs and prevent further school closures in communities throughout the state. More quality educational opportunities make for better, safer communities. The time is now for the Legislature and Governor to get this done."

Michael J. Palladino

President, NYPD Detectives Endowment Association, representing more than 5,000 detectives

"Our State's future, including who will guard public safety, depends on how best we educate children today. Opportunity for a religious education for low-income and working families, along with a quality public school system, is what this legislation can improve upon and why it must be approved in the State Budget."

Roy Richter

President, New York Police Department Captain Endowments Association, with 1,000 members

"The Education Investment Tax Credit will help make our schools better and our communities safer by helping children receive the educations they need and deserve. We support this bill and urge Governor Cuomo, the state Assembly and the state Senate to heed the call of this broad coalition of working men and women, faith leaders and community leaders and include the EITC in the final budget."

Steve Cassidy

President, Uniformed Firefighters Association of Greater New York, representing over 7000 FDNY firefighters

"Scholarship programs throughout the City and State do tremendous work to support the education of children, including those of our disabled or deceased firefighters. Passing this Tax Credit in the State Budget will help us do more for children in need by encouraging greater charitable support to have the quality education they deserve. I applaud Assemblyman Cusick and Senators Golden, Felder and Savino for their leadership on this important issue for working families."

Al Hagen

President Uniformed Fire Officers Association, representing over 1,000 FDNY officers

"The Education Investment Tax Credit is a creative and thoughtful way help provide and sustain a quality educational experience for children. A quality education itself is a vital means by which society protects the safety and welfare of New York's children. I am pleased to join with my colleagues in the labor movement, Cardinal Dolan and other leaders to advocate for inclusion of this creative approach in the new State Budget."

Dennis Quirk

President, NYS Court Officers Association, on behalf of more than 3,600 court officers

"This legislation is about meeting real needs of children from working families where a scholarship can give their children the educational opportunity to become productive citizens. Religious and independent schools, like our public schools, are important to neighborhoods and communities throughout the state and vital for the future of New York. I join with Cardinal Dolan, Bishop deMarzio, Rabbi Zweibel and my fellow labor leaders to urge state lawmakers to do the right thing by our children by approving the Education Investment Tax Credit."

Patrick Cullen

President, NYS Supreme Court Officers Association, with 2,400 active and retired members

"I join with my fellow labor leaders and clergy in urging Governor Cuomo and the Legislature to make scholarship opportunities a reality for children who otherwise won't have them. This legislation, with such a modest fiscal impact, will bring a powerfully positive impact on the lives of thousands of children and families."

Robert Catell

Retired CEO and Community Leader; former Chairman, New York City Partnership

"The Education Investment Tax Credit will make a great education more possible for more children — both in parochial schools and public schools. I've been witness to the passage of a great many bills in Albany. I can think of none that can do more good for more children, right now, than this one. I'm proud to stand with Cardinal Dolan, Bishop DiMarzio, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Figueroa and the other leaders today in calling for the Governor and the Legislature to take this smart next step in improving our state's future."

Rev. Conrad Tillard

Senior Pastor, Nazarene Congregational United Church of Christ, Brooklyn

"Passing the Education Investment Tax Credit is a pivotal step to helping educational opportunities for diverse communities like mine in Central Brooklyn," said "To help us close the achievement gap for our children, we must have new and innovative ways to improve funding. The EITC does just that, and I strongly support it."

Barry Lovell

Chair, UJA-Federation of New York Public Policy Committee's Jewish Day School Task Force

"UJA-Federation of New York is pleased to support the Education Investment Tax Credit. The bill is a win for New York as it works to advance the dual goals of helping parents afford their preferred school setting while also strengthening public education through programs such as arts and afterschool programming which greatly benefits students and their families."

Jessica Raba

Executive Director, Lutheran Schools Association

The Education Investment Tax Credit is a top priority for the Lutheran Schools Association in New York, as it represents an opportunity for our families, helping to meet their needs as they make critical choices about their children's education. We urge our lawmakers to ensure the tax credits are part of the state budget."

###