



MISSION: READINESS
MILITARY LEADERS FOR KIDS

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
New York State Capitol Building
Albany, New York 12224

December 8, 2014

Dear Governor Cuomo:

Mission: Readiness's research shows that 75% of our young people are ineligible for military service because they are high school dropouts, have had involvement with the criminal justice system, or are physically or mentally unfit. Not only is this an issue of national security, it means that the majority of young adults are not prepared to succeed in life.

What is the biggest predictor of that success? The earliest years.

This is why we ask that you Keep the Promise of Pre-K and increase last year's investment in programs across New York State.

We urge you to:

- Add at least \$150 million to the Statewide Universal Full-Day Prekindergarten Program, to provide upfront funding for districts outside New York City, and fully support New York City's plan to reach universal service in the 2015-16 school year; and
- Invest \$20M in increasing quality in early learning through implementation of a quality rating and improvement system, such as QUALITYstarsNY.

As retired admirals and generals, Mission: Readiness members understand first-hand how important it is to be prepared... and we know that we must start as early as

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possible to lay the foundation for success in school and in life.

Thank you.

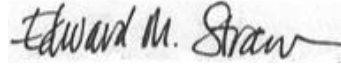
Sincerely,



Joseph Callo
Rear Admiral (ret.),
U.S. Navy



Michael S. Hall
Major General
(ret.), U.S. Air
Force



Edward M. Straw
Vice Admiral (ret.), U.S.
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Cc: John B. King, Jr.
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