

Working Families Party and the Alliance for Quality Education

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Groups Launch Major TV Ad Campaign Against Paterson Property Tax Cap

“Gimmick” Would Devastate Public Education

The Working Families Party (WFP) and the Alliance for Quality Education (AQE) launched a major TV ad campaign today against Gov. David Paterson’s “tax cap” plan.

The ad – titled “Wrong Answer” – quotes the New York Times’ description of Paterson’s tax cap “gimmick.” The so-called “tax cap” is the wrong answer to the serious problem of property taxes. Similar caps have devastated public education in states like California, Massachusetts and Illinois. The ad urges New Yorkers to call Gov. Paterson and tell him that “hurting schools is the wrong answer.”

The 30-second ad can be viewed here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=epmtYvvPH7M> and on a new web site: www.RealTaxSolutions.org.

It will air starting today on a mix of broadcast and cable stations in Albany, Buffalo, Long Island, New York City, Rochester and Syracuse, and run through August 19th, the day the State Assembly returns for a special session. The cost of the ad buy is approximately \$1.5 million.

“Governor Paterson’s tax caps will hurt school kids all around New York state,” said Billy Easton, AQE executive director. “This kind of gimmick has devastated public education in other states. Similar schemes in California, Illinois and Massachusetts led to overcrowded classrooms, teacher lay-offs and severe cuts in education funding. We spent 15 years debating the need for a statewide solution to the school funding crisis for school districts large and small, we can’t risk undoing the promise of quality education with a tax cap policy that has failed in other states.”

“Governor Paterson’s proposal doesn’t even actually reduce property taxes,” said Bertha Lewis, WFP co-chair. “A tax cap only limits the rate at which property rates can go up. Another proposal – the called a ‘circuit breaker’ – that is supported by many members of the State Assembly would cut taxes for most working and retired families.”

“We need to keep our schools strong to ensure that we can produce more skilled workers and keep those that are already here from moving to other states. In a highly competitive economy our education system must be top notch in order to attract and keep good jobs here. An economic downturn is not the time to cut investments in education,” said Glynda Carr, executive director of Education Voters of New York, an advocacy group that also opposes the Governor’s plan.

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