July 10, 2017

Alphonso David  
Counselor to the Governor  
Executive Chamber  
New York State Capitol  
Albany, New York 12224

APPROVAL RECOMMENDED

Re: S.2482C/A.5910C {LaValle}/(Fahy) AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to the New York State masters-in-education teacher incentive scholarship program.

The above captioned bill has passed both houses of the Legislature and will be considered by the Governor shortly. New York University (NYU) strongly supports this legislation, which expands the New York State Masters-in-Education Teacher Incentive Scholarship Program that was originally enacted in 2015.

The Masters-in-Education Teacher Incentive Scholarship Program currently provides a full scholarship for 500 New York State residents pursuing a master’s degree in teaching at a public institution in the state. This legislation expands the program to allow the value of this scholarship to be applied to one of the 100+ private institutions in the state. Currently, private, not-for-profit institutions in New York confer 61% of the State’s bachelor and graduate education degrees.

As Dean of the NYU Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, I am committed to producing a highly competent teaching workforce and maintaining New York State’s status as a leader in teacher preparation and education. In order to help our top education students pursue their graduate goals and retain our best teachers in the state following graduation, it is essential to provide this opportunity to students irrespective of which institution they choose to attend. School choice is important since a student’s talents and passions should be matched to the most appropriate program to ensure their academic success. Limiting scholarships to certain graduate programs prevents students from pursuing the specific educational degrees they desire – an education and degree that will ultimately benefit their future students.
This bill will encourage the best and brightest teachers to remain in New York State by allowing graduate education students to apply the value of this scholarship to a private institution if they choose, similar to many financial aid programs in New York. For these reasons, NYU urges the Governor to enact this legislation. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Pautz, Director of Government Affairs, at 212-998-2407 or jennifer.pautz@nyu.edu.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Dominic Brewer
Gale and Ira Drukier Dean