

Education will ensure the vitality and prosperity of Upstate New York. I believe that education is our most important investment, which is why I am a member of the Education and the Workforce Committee.

As part of my commitment to education, I am an original cosponsor of the Teacher Tax Deduction Act, a bill that would increase the deduction from \$250 to \$500 that teachers may take on expenses for supplementary materials used in their classrooms. Teachers often reach into their own pockets to supplement classroom expenses—this bill gives them the opportunity deduct costs they incurred to benefit their students.

I also support the All Children are Equal Act, which would amend federal education funding formulas to ensure that school districts are treated based upon their percentages of poverty, rather than population. This bill would help relatively poor, rural school districts such as those in parts of Upstate New York.

We also need to support Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education initiatives throughout Upstate. Preparing our children to compete and succeed in a global market requires our children to be prepared to enter science and technology fields. This is vital to retaining jobs in New York and being positioned to create new, high-tech jobs. That is why I am the Republican co-sponsor of H.R. 135, the National STEM Education Tax Incentive for Teachers Act. This bill allows teachers of STEM courses a tax credit for their undergraduate tuition up to \$1,500 in any year. We should invest in teachers who invest their time and energy in our children's future.

Regarding higher education, I support a bold initiative to create a new tax deduction for undergraduate tuition. This policy recognizes the role of significant higher education as investment in human capital. My plan encourages students, parents, and philanthropists to invest directly in the education of young Americans. Studies indicate that college graduates earn much higher salaries than those without college degrees, meaning they also pay more in taxes to the federal government. I believe this is a long-term, cost-effective approach to investing in our children's future.

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