

The Bully's Pulpit 19

The Bully is Trying to Limit Tax Increases to Destroy Schools and Educators

From the NJEA

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NEW JERSEY EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

TO: Local association presidents

FROM: Barbara Keshishian, President
Vincent Giordano, Executive Director

RE: **URGENT: Special session considering caps proposals – need calls now!**

New Jersey legislators have been ordered into special session by Gov. Christie, with a mandate to consider and pass a strict new property tax cap which will devastate local schools and communities.

While the governor cannot force the legislature to pass anything, he has already ordered them to Trenton on Saturday, July 3 for a third straight day of special session, and he told them in an address on Thursday, "We will work every day until we do one or the other," referring to either a constitutional or a statutory 2.5 percent hard cap.

Earlier this week, the Legislature passed a tax cap bill which tightens the current 4 percent cap to 2.9 percent and removes some of the existing waivers. NJEA opposed that bill because of the damage it will do to public education, especially in an era when Gov. Christie is slashing school aid.

But the Governor rejected even that bill and ordered the [Legislature](#) to pass an even STRICTER plan, which would limit property tax growth to 2.5 percent with NO exceptions for health care, special education or other exceptional costs beyond the control of the board of education or city council.

Gov. Christie's proposal, if enacted by the Legislature, will strangle public education, along with other critical community services like police and fire protection.

We must take action today! We need you to do THREE THINGS:

1. Call and email [Senate President Steve Sweeney](#) and [Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver](#). Urge them NOT to pass a stricter budget cap. [Click here](#) for information on the

consequences of budget caps.

Senator Sweeney: 856-251-9801 and SenSweeney@njleg.org

Assemblywoman Oliver: 973-395-1166 and AswOliver@njleg.org

2. **Call and email your Senator and Assembly members.** Tell them to say NO to tighter budget caps. A [roster](#) of legislators and a [district locator](#) are attached to this email.
3. **Please FORWARD this email directly to your MEMBERS, and urge them to call and email Senator Sweeney, Assemblywoman Oliver and their own legislators.**

We must move quickly to prevent even more damage to New Jersey's high quality public schools.

Thank you!

Take the Time. Make the Call. Write the emails

Like the Bully that he is, if he's not stopped he's just going to demand more.

Fight Back!