

Dear Mrs. Nolan,

Education is the foundation of civilization and society and the key to our future. It has as its goals, the development of mind and character.

An invaluable tool in accomplishing these goals, permitted, but as of yet not mandated in New York state, is known as the moment of silence, Bill #4371. While the benefits of mentally preparing oneself for a task are widely recognized, many of our schools leave out this important exercise. Beginning each day by collecting ones thoughts, reflecting on the upcoming day, or just spending those few moments in appreciation of the freedoms we enjoy and resolving to make the most of them, would be of inestimable value.

In this time of increase in threats of worldwide terror, and especially with the rise of violence in Public Schools, it is evident that academic subjects alone are not enough to produce upright and responsible citizens. There must be a focus on character building, with an emphasis on values.

**There are 17 states where this law is in practice. It has been statistically proven that those states have had a decrease in violence since instituting this law, and as the years go on it decreases more. While all other states that do not have this law mandated, are experiencing a rise in violence.**

The moment of silence is a time for the children to contemplate and reflect, in the beginning of the school day, on the moral values of freedom that make America unique. It is also a time to collect their thoughts and reflect on their upcoming day, when their minds are the most fresh.

**Please support BILL NUMBER A4371 and together we will make our world a safer and better place for all.**

Sincerely,