

November 23, 2010

Hon. David Steiner  
Commissioner of Education  
89 Washington Avenue  
Albany, NY 12234

Dear Commissioner Steiner:

For generations, as educators and as mothers, women have been at the forefront of education across the United States. We are delighted that the largest public school system in the country will, for the first time, be headed by a woman – and in Cathie Black we have an extraordinarily qualified and visionary leader. We urge you to grant the necessary waiver for this historic appointment.

Over the past 30 years in the publishing industry, Ms. Black has played a critical role breaking through the glass ceiling – not once, not twice, but time and again. She has distinguished herself as a talented manager, starting in 1979 as the first female publisher of a weekly magazine, continuing with her tenure as the first publisher of USA Today and leading to her current role as the first female president of Hearst Magazines.

Ms. Black has managed large and complex organizations –Hearst Magazines publishes over 200 local editions in 100 countries – each undergoing transformations in the midst of a difficult climate, not unlike what we are witnessing today in education. Ms. Black's ability to drive success in changing environments and to make tough choices make her an excellent choice for New York City Schools Chancellor.

Ms. Black has also shown a strong commitment to education and women's issues. She is a member of Advisory Council for Harlem Village Academy and the Board of Trustees for the University of Notre Dame. She also plays a prominent role in The Glow Project, a philanthropy aimed at empowering women.

Cathie Black's record of achievement makes her well qualified for the challenges that await her as Chancellor of New York City Public Schools. We urge you to approve the waiver application.

Sincerely,



Kelli Conlin  
President, NARAL Pro-Choice New York



Gloria Steinem



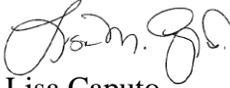
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President, 100 Hispanic Women, Inc.



Ana L. Oliveira  
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Lisa Caputo  
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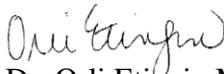


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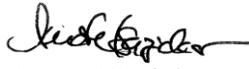
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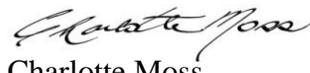
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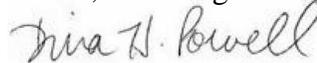
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