



New York Farm Bureau
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MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Senate Bill 4281 (Senator Ranzenhofer) / Assembly Bill 5689 (Assemblywoman Jenne)

AN ACT TO AMEND THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW, IN RELATION TO INCREASING THE PURCHASING LIMIT FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO ORDER FROM CERTAIN FARMERS WITHOUT REQUIRING A WAIVER

Date: 3/3/2017

New York Farm Bureau, the state's largest agricultural advocacy organization would like to express its support for this legislation. If enacted, this bill would help remove barriers to school districts sourcing more products from local farmers by allowing districts to purchase up to \$150,000 in product from groups of more than 10 farm owners without requesting permission from the Commissioner of Education. This would bring New York State procurement laws in line with the federal rules for schools.

This legislation would remove an additional barrier to greater school procurement of local food by allowing for the purchase of up to \$150,000 in fresh, healthy food grown locally without requiring a waiver from the Department of Education. The current threshold is \$25,000, as changed from \$20,000 through legislation approved last year.

This will undoubtedly expand access in schools to local farm products, which leads to positive health benefits for students and positive economic outcomes for the local community.

For these reasons, New York Farm Bureau requests your support of this legislation.