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Danny Donohue, President

S U P P O R T

May 5, 2009

MEMORANDUM IN

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OF

A. 2000 - Lancman

The CSEA supports this legislation.

This bill amends the Public Authorities Law to require public authorities to develop and implement policies that would allow certain employees to perform work functions from their home. Allowing employees to utilize widely available technology to perform work duties offsite has proven to be successful in various industries and would benefit not only employees but also the public authorities that employ them.

The use of telecommuting has increased tremendously over the past fifteen years. With the low-cost of connectivity and the widespread ownership of personal communication devices, employees are now able to perform work duties as if they were located in the office. Employees now have the capability to access e-mail, voicemail, and their work computer files from anywhere in the world. Many jobs can be performed anywhere and do not necessitate a person physically being in an office. In fact, several studies have shown that employees who telecommute are 10 to 30 percent more productive compared to employees who are located in an actual office.

This bill presents a balanced approach regarding teleworking at public authorities. This arrangement will allow employees to balance their responsibilities at work and home, as well as allow them to save money on their daily commute. Further, by requiring authorities to negotiate telecommuting policies with the labor union representing employees this bill maintains the integrity of the collective bargaining agreement.

On behalf of more than 300,000 active and retired, public and private employees across New York State, the CSEA urges the passage of this legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Turner
Director

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