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January 8, 2013

Dear Hon. Andrew Cuomo:

The New York State Democratic Party stands for progressive ideals. We endeavor to make the American dream real for everyone, especially those whose rights are often ignored: racial minorities, immigrants, women, the poor, gays, working people, tenants, artists, students, and small business owners. The Republican Party, on the other hand – as so dramatically demonstrated throughout this past election season – wants simply to uphold privilege for those with extreme wealth and power.

Given the stark contrast between these parties, we were extremely disturbed to learn that, despite having run as a Democrat for the New York State Senate, Simcha Felder announced upon victory plans to caucus with Republicans – in effect, to become a Republican, followed soon thereafter by Malcolm Smith. We were equally dismayed by Democrats Jeff Klein, Diane Savino, David Carlucci, David Valesky, who after getting elected, suddenly defined themselves as independents – meaning that they too will not be caucusing with their own party. We feel that, simply to succeed at the electoral level, these politicians cloaked themselves with the mantle of the Democratic Party, but later with a cynical eye toward gaining favor with the Republican majority, quickly shrugged off this mantle, along with the ideals it represents.

It is important that all New York State Democrats speak out against this betrayal. However, only our leaders can hold traitors accountable and also establish guidelines to help insure party loyalty in future. Therefore we call upon you to make the following announcements:

- (1) Funds drawn from our party's coffers used to support the recent elections of Simcha Felder, Malcolm Smith, Jeff Klein, Diane Savino, David Carlucci and David Valesky must be paid back with interest. In addition, if they so desire, individual contributors to these campaigns should be reimbursed.
- (2) When Democrats take control of the New York State Senate, and if Simcha Felder, Malcolm Smith, Jeff Klein, Diane Savino, David Carlucci and David Valesky are still in office, committee chairs and other privileges of seniority will be withheld from them by the New York State Senate Democratic Caucus.
- (3) The party rules will be amended to state that it is an act of disloyalty not to vote for leadership positions recommended by the party caucus in the legislative body. Had this rule been in place, we likely would have prevailed in the 2002 effort to cancel the enrollment of Pedro Espada in the Democratic Party.

Thank you for reading this letter. We look forward to your response.

CHELSEA REFORM DEMOCRATIC CLUB

Steven Skyles-Mulligan, President

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