

# CLARENCE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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January 14, 2019

The Honorable Michael Norris  
New York State Assembly  
8180 Main Street  
Williamsville, NY 14221

Dear Assemblyman Norris,

I am asking for your help in rejecting bill number A.1007 sponsored by Linda Rosenthal and co-sponsored by Jo Simon. The legislation was introduced on January 14, 2019, and referred to the Assembly Education Committee. The bill is currently on hold in the Education Committee.

The bill would prohibit marksmanship and/or shooting programs in public schools. There is no evidence to support the idea that eliminating marksmanship and shooting programs in public schools will improve school safety. To the contrary, the students who participate in the programs are responsible young citizens who are committed to firearm safety and enjoy competing in the interscholastic sport of Rifle.

The Clarence High School Rifle Team was the 30-Shot Section VI and Regional State Champions this year. The team members were outstanding students and upstanding young men and women who benefited greatly from the Rifle Team experience. Clarence also had the individual state champion in Rifle, who earned an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point.

It would be an enormous mistake to pass bill number A.1007 and the bill should be rejected outright. The Clarence High School Rifle Team has been in existence for over 50 years. In that time there has never been a negative incident involving firearms. Two years ago, the New York State Public High School made the transition from small bore to air rifle, furthering the emphasis on safety.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey M. Hicks, Ed.D.  
Superintendent