



NYCLU

NEW YORK CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

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October 7, 2005

Buffalo Board of Education
810 City Hall
Buffalo, NY 14202


Dear Members of the Board:

Our office was recently contacted by several parents of students at Hutchinson Central Technical High School who objected to the involuntary enrollment of their children in the school's JROTC program. A provision of the state education law, Education Law, Section 802(3) requires that such enrollment be voluntary and that a school have the written consent of the parent or guardian. A copy of our letter to the principal, David Grecco, is self-explanatory and enclosed herewith.

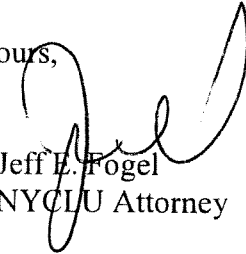
The Buffalo News reported that Principal Grecco still maintains that the automatic enrollment of students into JROTC is proper and authorized by No Child Left Behind. No Child Left Behind governs the release of student directory information to military recruiters and not involuntary enrollment in JROTC. By letter, I have advised Mr. Grecco of that fact and of the specific provision of No Child Left Behind which is applicable.

Naturally, we are concerned about the involuntary enrollment of children into JROTC in violation of state law. We are also concerned, as you will see from my second letter to Mr. Grecco, about his policy with respect to the release of student directory information and the policy regarding access by military recruiters to the school. I have asked Mr. Grecco for information about those policies.

I would hope that the Board will help rectify both of these matters and I am available to provide whatever information you may deem helpful to that process. Our website, www.nyclu.org also has considerable information on the provisions of No Child Left Behind along with sample forms.


Donna Lieberman
NYCLU Executive Director

Very truly yours,


Jeff E. Fogel
NYCLU Attorney

CC: Dr. James A. Williams