



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-3220

February 20, 2008

Heidi DeBlock, MD, F.C.C.M.  
President  
P.O. Box 1194  
Schenectady, NY 12301

Dear Ms. DeBlock,

I am writing to voice my support of the Challenger Learning Center of Tech Valley.

I strongly believe that the future of our nation depends on a workforce that is educated in math and science and fully trained to take advantage of the technological advances of today, so that we can compete globally in the future. The CLC is an organization that supplements the education provided in our schools, with exciting programs for our K-8 students. These programs not only serve to educate our students in math, science and technology, but they help students to develop workplace skills such as problem solving, communication, team building and leadership.

In my travels across the 20<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, I frequently hear from corporate leaders about their need for a technologically skilled workforce. I also hear from parents and educators about the desire to keep our children here upon their graduation from secondary, college and graduate education programs. It is my belief that the Challenger learning center will help to provide a trained, skilled, home-grown workforce that will allow "Tech Valley" to fulfill its promise for decades to come.

The Challenger Learning Center of Tech Valley is expected to serve 19 counties in upstate New York and be located with the only science and technology museum in the region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kirsten E. Gillibrand".

Kirsten E. Gillibrand  
Member of Congress