

**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 7, 2025 1:04 PM  
**To:** 'smayer@nysenate.gov'; 'tedisco@nysenate.gov';  
'benedettom@nyassembly.gov'; 'smithd@nyassembly.gov';  
'stavisky@nysenate.gov'; 'griffo@nysenate.gov';  
'hyndmana@nyassembly.gov'; 'smullenr@nyassembly.gov'  
**Cc:** 'RegentsOffice@nysed.gov'; Bob Schulz  
**Subject:** **OVERSIGHT REQUIRED: Education Law §801 & the required "courses of instruction in the constitution of the state of New York and the amendments thereto"**  
**Attachments:** [3-6-25-ltr-foil-to-board-of-regents.pdf](#)

TO: [Senate Committee on Education](#)  
Chair Shelley Mayer, ESQ. & Ranking Member James Tedisco  
[Assembly Committee on Education](#)  
Chair Michael Benedetto & Ranking Member Doug Smith  
[Senate Committee on Higher Education](#)  
Chair Toby Ann Stavisky & Ranking Member Joseph Griffo  
[Assembly Committee on Higher Education](#)  
Chair Alicia Hyndman & Ranking Member Robert Smullen

By a [February 24<sup>th</sup> e-mail](#) to all members of the Senate and Assembly Committees on Higher Education entitled: "Your Tomorrow's Budget Hearing on 'Higher Education' – & Questions for SUNY Chancellor King, CUNY Chancellor Matos Rodriguez, & NYS Education Commissioner Rosa", I stated:

"...it appears that the Legislature has also not been overseeing compliance with [Education Law §801](#) entitled 'Courses of instruction in patriotism and citizenship and in certain historic documents'. Its subsection 2 reads, in pertinent part:

'The regents shall prescribe courses of instruction in the history, meaning, significance and effect of the provisions of the constitution of the United States, the amendments thereto, the declaration of independence, the constitution of the state of New York and the amendments thereto, to be maintained and followed in all of the schools of the state. ...' (underlining added)

What 'courses of instruction' have the regents prescribed pertaining to 'the constitution of the state of New York'? And do the massive SUNY and CUNY systems offer even a single course on the New York State Constitution, *as written* and *as applied*? Where? Who are the professors and what evidence-based research have they been doing? Where are their scholarly publications – and those of their students? And if SUNY and CUNY offer no doctoral or other degrees in the New York State Constitution, why not? ..." (underlining, hyperlinking, and italics in the original).

To ascertain the facts as to compliance by the Board of Regents and the Education Commissioner with Education Law §801, I yesterday sent a letter/FOIL request to the Board, to which you are cc'd.

By the way, my [February 24<sup>th</sup> e-mail](#), to which I received no response and which prompted no questioning of the SUNY and CUNY Chancellors and the Education Commissioner at the Legislature's February 25<sup>th</sup> budget hearing, constituted my [written testimony](#) for the hearing.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director  
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**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <[elena@judgewatch.org](mailto:elena@judgewatch.org)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 6, 2025 4:54 PM  
**To:** 'RegentsOffice@nysed.gov' <[RegentsOffice@nysed.gov](mailto:RegentsOffice@nysed.gov)>; 'foil@nysed.gov' <[foil@nysed.gov](mailto:foil@nysed.gov)>

**Subject: FOIL/Records Request: Education Law §801 & the required "courses of instruction in...the constitution of the state of New York and the amendments thereto"**

TO: [New York State Board of Regents/Department of Education](#)

Attached is my above-entitled letter/FOIL request to the Board of Regents of today's date.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director  
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