

I'm Kelly Morenus and I am writing to ask for your vote as Secondary Vice President and as delegate to NYSUT and AFT for the Herricks Teachers Association. If you do not know me, I have been a teacher here in Herricks for a little over six years; I teach 6th and 8th grade social studies and social studies immersion at Herricks Middle School. Prior to joining the HTA, I taught high school social studies elsewhere for four years and completed a teaching internship at a boarding school in the United Kingdom. I am currently serving the HTA as a building rep in the Middle School and as a NYSUT delegate, and last year I served on the teachers' Professional Negotiations Committee.

I look forward to attending my first NYSUT representative assembly next month as a delegate from Herricks. I have submitted my committee choices and I hope to be placed on the Legislative/Political Action Committee, which has three proposed resolutions to prioritize paid family leave for teachers. I have been pleased that NYSUT has been focused on fixing the Tier 6 retirement agreement, but I believe that NYSUT must also lobby to end the public employer exemption for paid family leave in New York State in order to provide teachers with paid time off to care for newborns or loved ones experiencing illness. I also believe NYSUT must stand firmly against book bans and the censorship of education that we have seen growing more common throughout the country in recent years.

While I know I am still relatively new to the HTA and to the district, I hope you can see my potential as a champion for teachers and choose to cast a vote for me. I believe that my passion for advocacy more than makes up for what I lack in experience, and I will devote myself to learning anything I do not know. For as long as I can remember, I have been driven by a sense of civic engagement and activism. In high school, I somehow convinced my parents to let me board a bus down to DC with a friend to attend a rally for Darfur. My passionate spirit has not diminished with time. Today, I regularly call my legislators to request their vote on specific issues, I have started a local petition in my neighborhood to bring to my village board, I attend rallies and protests for causes I believe in, and I have met with my state senators and assembly members as part of my work on the board of the Long Island Dog Owners Group, a local nonprofit.

I also believe I can bring a new and necessary perspective to our Executive Council and NYSUT delegation. I am in my mid 30s, I am a member of Tier 6, and I am still in the first half of my career. I have not had my own children yet, but I hope and plan to in the future. As someone who is not nearing retirement and who hopes to be a parent someday, my focus is intent on not only financial gains, but also on protecting and improving our working conditions for the future, both locally and statewide. I would also like to see a greater level of transparency within our union so all members can see exactly how our union is working and fighting for them.

If you have any questions about my positions or my candidacy, please feel free to reach out to me at [kmorenus@gmail.com](mailto:kmorenus@gmail.com). If elected, it is my promise to all of our members to advocate on your behalf, to listen to your concerns with respect and an open mind, and to be available and accessible to all members of the middle school and high school. As Secondary Vice President, I would also keep a regular line of communication not only with the rest of the executive board but also with the representatives of both the middle school and the high school so I can be ready and prepared to address any issues that may arise. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the HTA in various positions during the last two years, and I hope you will give me the opportunity and the further honor and privilege to continue serving our members as Secondary Vice President.

Sincerely,  
Kelly Morenus