



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Andrew J. Lanza

## LANZA VOTES FOR \$3.3 BILLION TAX CUT & JOB CREATION PLAN - Senate Passes Bill that Cuts Taxes for 4.4 Million New Yorkers; Repeals MTA Payroll Tax for 78% of Businesses; and Invests in Job Creation & Retention

ANDREW J LANZA December 8, 2011

The New York State Senate yesterday passed the Middle Class Tax Cut and Job Creation Plan that will reduce taxes for millions of hardworking, middle-class taxpayers to their lowest levels in more than half a century. In addition, the comprehensive plan will help strengthen our economy and create new jobs by eliminating the job-killing MTA payroll tax for more than 78 percent of the small employers that pay the tax. The plan will provide a total of more than \$3.3 billion in tax relief to individuals and businesses.

In addition the bill which Senator Lanza voted for (S.50001, S.50002): encourages job retention; invests in infrastructure improvements; addresses flood relief and recovery; eliminates tax indexing; and sets aside additional money in state reserve funds.

"In the past year we've accomplished some very important things, including eliminating a \$10 billion deficit, bringing spending under control and capping property taxes. Today we are taking another huge step forward by cutting taxes for millions of individuals and businesses and providing new investments and incentives to help businesses create private sector jobs," Lanza said. The Middle Class Tax Cut and Job Creation Plan is supported by major business organizations across the state. Highlights of the plan include:

"I have kept my promise and scored a huge victory for Staten Island families and businesses as part of this legislation eliminates the MTA Payroll Tax for all schools on Staten Island and most businesses," said Lanza. "I have fought this job-killing tax since its enactment and am gratified that I was able to roll it back in this bill."

The Middle Class Tax Cut and Job Creation Plan is supported by major business organizations across the state. Highlights of the plan include:

### **MIDDLE CLASS TAX CUT**

Approximately 4.4 million middle-class taxpayers will receive \$690 million in personal income tax relief, allowing them to save, spend and invest more of their hard-earned money. After these tax reforms are implemented, middle-class taxpayers will pay the lowest tax rate in more than 50 years.

### **MTA PAYROLL TAX REPEAL**

This plan repeals the devastating MTA payroll tax for about 78 percent, or more than 704,000, of the business entities that currently pay it. This includes eliminating the tax for 290,000 employers with payrolls of less than \$1.25 million; 415,000 self-employed taxpayers; and all public and non-public schools.

“I want to thank Senator Andrew Lanza for all of his efforts to repeal the MTA payroll tax,” Senator Skelos said. “Senator Lanza has focused on this issue, he made repealing the tax his top priority, he sponsored legislation the Senate passed this year to get rid of it. Every downstate Republican Senator kept up the pressure and today we are finally eliminating the MTA payroll tax for the vast majority of businesses impacted by it.”

#### **ELIMINATE TAX INDEXING**

Under the provisions of this bill, income brackets and the standard deduction will be adjusted for the rate of inflation, eliminating “bracket creep,” and providing about \$440 million in tax savings over two years for every New Yorker that pays the personal income tax.

#### **PERSONAL INCOME TAX SURCHARGE ELIMINATION**

The bill eliminates the PIT surcharge, enacted by Democrats in 2009. Ninety-one percent of taxpayers currently impacted by the surcharge will receive a tax cut. Rates would revert back to the lower rate they paid prior to the enactment of the surcharge.

#### **FLOOD RELIEF**

\$50 million in additional relief will be provided for areas affected by the recent flooding. A job retention tax credit will also be extended to businesses harmed by a natural disaster within the last year.

#### **CAPITAL INVESTMENTS AND JOB CREATION**

A new \$1 billion infrastructure fund has been established to rebuild roads, bridges and other infrastructure, and encourage the creation of thousands of related jobs. These investments are expected to leverage \$10 billion in capital investments. Projects immediately expedited through the infrastructure fund total \$2.6 billion.

Specific investments by the infrastructure fund include replacing bridges, rehabilitating dams and flood control infrastructure, rebuilding water systems, renovating parks and projects that support regional economic development plans.

#### **INNER-CITY YOUTH EMPLOYMENT**

The bill includes \$37 million in funds for job readiness training for inner-city youth and provides \$25 million in tax credits for employers who hire unemployed youth.

#### **SETTING ASIDE MORE MONEY IN RESERVES**

The plan sets aside \$1.5 billion, completely unspent and held in reserve for economic uncertainties and to help support: job creation; local government mandate relief; ensure funding for education and health care; and closure of budget gaps.

“Enactment of this plan will give us a major head start on next year’s budget, as we seek to further reduce state spending,” Senator Lanza said. “Cutting taxes and creating jobs are important to improve our economy and we must continue to reduce state spending and focus on other ways to reduce the tax burden on businesses and individuals.”

#####