



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Velmanette Montgomery

## Albany Pulse - March 2, 2011

VELMANETTE MONTGOMERY March 4, 2011

***Excerpts from a March 2nd letter to Governor Cuomo from Senator Montgomery and 19 of her Senate Colleagues:***

"In your budget presentation on February 1st, you urged the State Legislature to join you in making tough decisions. We are prepared to do just that.

We know this year's budget will require a heavy dose of sacrifice and a heavy dose of responsibility. However, we write you today to urge that the sacrifice and responsibility be shared across the state.

As we continue to hold public hearings on the impact of the proposed budget cuts, it has become clear to us, particularly in the areas of education, health and public safety, a disproportionate burden will be placed on low-income

communities and communities of color.

While these cuts are being touted as a path to recovery, to many of our constituents these cuts could easily be a path to ruin with hospitals closing, classes becoming overcrowded, and streets becoming less safe.

This is a path we do not have to take. Instead, we ask that this year's budget reflect shared sacrifice and shared responsibility for all New Yorkers.

**That is why we are writing to request your support for keeping in place the Personal Income Tax (PIT) at current levels.**

**If we just keep the PIT rate where it is for those wealthiest New Yorkers, it would provide more than \$1 billion**

**in revenue this fiscal year and up to \$5 billion in fiscal year 2012-2013.**

Those revenues should be used to offset the hundreds of millions of dollars in cuts proposed to education (including SUNY & CUNY), public health, human services, mental hygiene, and public safety.

New York's low-income earners are paying more than ever before in personal income tax, while the wealthiest New Yorkers pay less than they ever have in personal income tax.

**During these difficult financial times sacrifices must be shared by all.** Keeping taxes for the wealthiest New Yorkers at their current level will lessen the cuts to critical services like education, Medicaid and public safety funding that impact the people we serve."

**In Recognition of National Women's History Month ...**

New York State Senator

**VELMANETTE MONTGOMERY**

**Martha Kamber**

Executive Director of the YWCA of Brooklyn and Lynn Nottage

cordially invite you to a reception to celebrate the newly renovated YWCA of Brooklyn and the rededication of the YWCA

Community Art Gallery to

**JEANNETTE "RUBY" NOTTAGE**

**Friday, March 25, 2011**

**6:00 pm - 8:00 pm**