



THE NYS SENATE
REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE

**THE 2016
LEGISLATIVE
SESSION**

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LEGISLATIVE
SESSION**

Dear Friend:

Throughout the 2016 Legislative Session, the Senate Republican Conference worked together in a bipartisan way to improve the quality of life in communities throughout our state, and to help ensure that all New Yorkers have the opportunity to succeed and realize a bright, prosperous future.

This year's Session produced a wide array of significant accomplishments, including:

- Landmark laws to combat heroin and opioid addiction;
- A comprehensive lead testing bill to ensure clean, safe drinking water in our schools;
- A sensible and compassionate paid family leave law;
- A major, new Middle Class Income Tax Cut;
- A record-high level of school aid and the complete elimination of the GEA school aid cuts;
- Property tax relief in the form of a new round of rebate checks;
- Greater investments in our environment;
- Regionally-balanced, job-creating infrastructure funding;
- An important new law to combat breast cancer; and
- New ethics reforms that will make state government stronger and more accountable.

The following pages provide a brief overview of some the 2016 Legislative Session highlights.

For additional details, please visit NYSENATE.GOV.

A photograph of two women in profile, facing each other and smiling. The woman on the left has dark hair and is wearing a blue and white striped shirt. The woman on the right has long brown hair and is wearing a yellow sweater. They are in a brightly lit room with a window in the background. A dark semi-transparent box is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing white text.

CUTTING TAXES AND CONTROLLING SPENDING

To keep New York State moving in the right direction, we must continue our efforts to make it more affordable. The 2016 Legislative Session accomplished this goal in two ways:

- Cutting Taxes
- Controlling Spending

For the sixth straight year, the state's spending growth will be held at or below two percent. This self-imposed, two percent spending cap has already saved New Yorkers approximately \$31 billion cumulatively.

The spending cap represents a critical part of our ongoing effort to protect taxpayers from higher taxes in future years. But that's only the beginning. **The Senate Majority also fought for and delivered new tax relief for New York's overburdened taxpayers.** This relief includes:

- A major new Middle Class Income Tax Cut, which will reduce taxes by approximately \$4.2 billion for millions of middle class New Yorkers, as well as tens of thousands of small businesses. This broad-based tax cut will reduce middle class tax rates by 20 percent. It will also establish the lowest middle class tax rate since 1948, and represents one of the largest income tax reductions in state history;
- Major property tax relief, including approximately \$2.7 billion in funding for STAR and Enhanced STAR;
- Another round of tax rebates, with new checks being sent out to homeowners this fall; and
- A record amount of school aid, nearly \$25 billion, protecting local homeowners from higher property taxes.

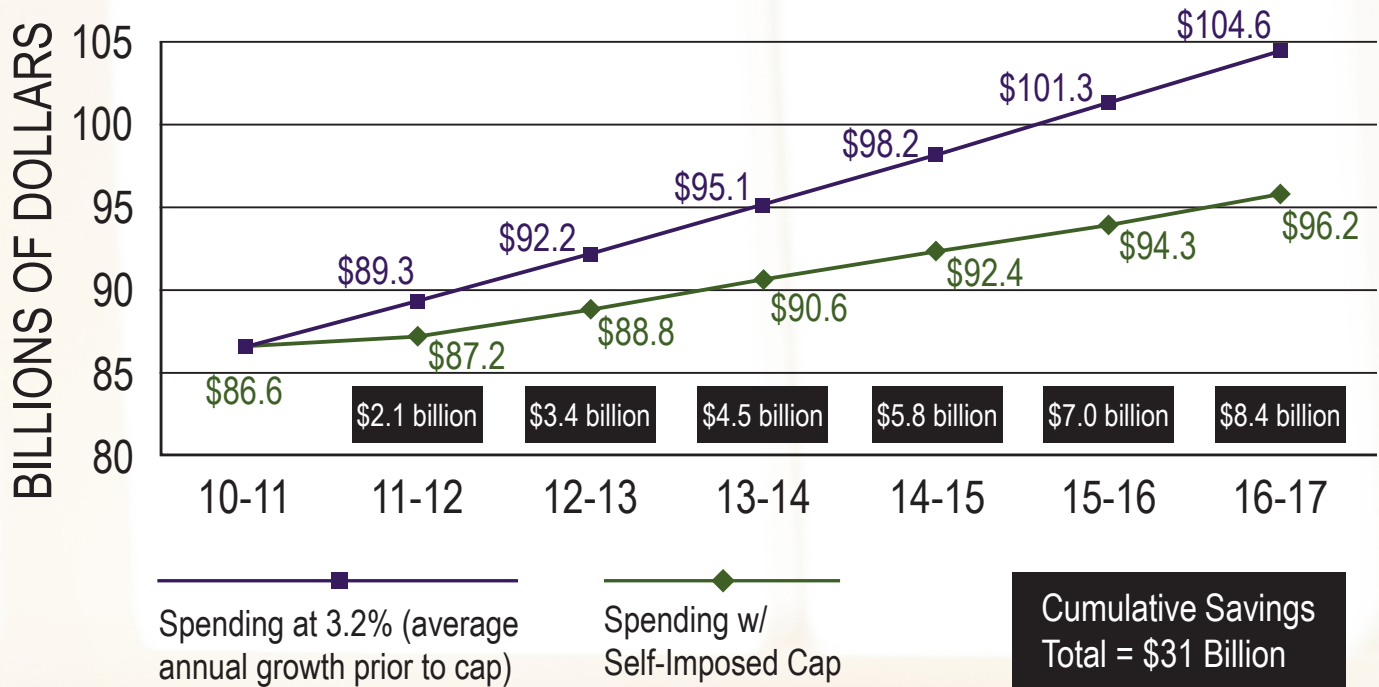
By keeping the lid on spending and providing tax relief for everyday New Yorkers, the Senate Majority is working hard to make the Empire State more affordable.

A photograph of a young man and woman sitting closely together on a brown couch. They are both smiling warmly at the camera. The man is on the left, wearing a plaid shirt and a dark sweater. The woman is on the right, wearing a yellow top and a brown cardigan. The background is a bright window with sunlight streaming in, creating a warm, golden glow. The entire image is framed by a thin black border.

SPENDING CAP CONTINUES TO PROTECT TAXPAYERS

SELF-IMPOSED SPENDING CAP HAS SAVED MORE THAN \$31 BILLION

\$5,242 IN SAVINGS PER TAXPAYER



A woman with dark hair pulled back, wearing a light-colored cardigan over a striped shirt, is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. In the background, a young girl with long brown hair, also wearing a striped shirt, is sitting at a table and looking towards the left. The setting appears to be a bright, indoor space, possibly a dining room or kitchen, with a bookshelf visible in the background.

A STARK CONTRAST ON TAXES

When government is mismanaged -- and when taxes and spending are out-of-control -- it's always hardworking New Yorkers who wind up getting hurt.

During the two brief years that the Senate Democrat Conference was in control of the house, they went on a reckless taxing and spending binge that had disastrous consequences for taxpayers, the economy and New York State as a whole.


In contrast, Senate Republicans have now enacted 78 tax cuts over the past six years, saving taxpayers more than \$11 billion.



SENATE DEMOCRATS: 124 New Tax Hikes in Just Two Years

\$14 Billion in Higher Taxes (Senate Republicans Voted Against ALL These Taxes and Fees)

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| 1 Personal Income Tax Increase | 31 Photo Document DMV Fee | 64 Clean Air Operating Permit Fee | 96 Sales Tax on Clothing Purchases |
| 2 Eliminate STAR Property Rebate | 32 Increase Cigar Tax | 65 Establish Promotion Exam Fee | 97 Excise Tax on Cigarette Packs Hike |
| 3 MTA Region Payroll | 33 Internet Dot-Com Hike | 66 Parks Cabin Fee Increases | 98 Income Charitable Deduction |
| 4 18-A Utility Increase | 34 Remove Cap DMV Surcharges | 67 Driver's License Reinstatement Fee | 99 NYC STAR Income Rate Hike |
| 5 NY Power Authority Sweep | 35 Auto Rental Fee | 68 Retail Food Store License Fee Hike | 100 Timothy's Law Reimbursement Cut |
| 6 Insurance Policy Tax | 36 Trailer Registration Fee Hikes | 69 Air Contamination Fees | 101 Make REIT/RIC Provisions Permanent |
| 7 State / City University Tuition | 37 Asbestos Notification Fee | 70 Motor Vehicle Certificate Fee | 102 Increase Tobacco Products Tax |
| 8 MTA Registration Surcharge | 38 Tobacco Retail Registration Fee | 71 Parks Empire Passports Hikes | 103 Increase Moist Snuff Tax |
| 9 Shift Healthy NY Direct Pay Stop Loss to Ins. Assessment (DRP) | 39 New Marine Fishing License | 72 Parks Marina Fee Increases | 104 "Little Cigars" Tax |
| 10 Hospital Assessment (Tax) | 40 Increase Pesticide Fees | 73 Security Guard Training Fee | 105 Retiree's Medicare Tax |
| 11 Cut Itemized Deductions for High Income Taxpayers | 41 Covered Lives Assessment Tax | 74 Heavy Vehicle Registration Fee | 106 Add Back Sales Deduction |
| 12 Hospital Surcharge (Tax) | 42 Highway Use Fee Increase | 75 State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) Fee | 107 Consumer Credit Judgments |
| 13 Health Insurance Tax | 43 Taxi and Bus Registration Fee | 76 Local Written Exam Fees | 108 Surplus from Workers Insurers |
| 14 Enhanced "Bottle Bill" deposits | 44 Establish Tax Preparer Fee | 77 Parks Permit Fee Increases | 109 Eliminate Sales Vendor Credit |
| 15 Empire Zones Business Tax | 45 Certificate of Need Fee Hike | 78 Food Warehouse Fee Hike | 110 Cut STAR Exemptions for High Incomes |
| 16 MTA Taxi Surcharge | 46 In-state use of Out-of-state Vehicles | 79 (ATV) Registration Fee Increase | 111 Internet Hotel (Expedia Tax) |
| 17 Surcharge Hike on Auto Ins. | 47 Vehicle Re-Registration Fee | 80 Open Competitive Exam Fee | 112 Eliminate Credit Card Refund |
| 18 Vehicle Registration Fee Hike | 48 Driver License Suspension Fee Hike | 81 Motorcycle Registration Hike | 113 Banks Bad Debt Deduction |
| 19 Non-LLC Partnerships Fee | 49 State Pollutant Discharge Fees | 82 In-transit Permits Fee Increases | 114 Treat S-Corp Gains as Taxable |
| 20 Driver License Renewal Hike | 50 Nuclear Power Plant Fee Hike | 83 Feed Tonnage Fees-Farms Fee | 115 Waste Tire Management Fee |
| 21 MTA Auto Rental 5% Surcharge | 51 Custom Vehicle Registration | 84 Security Guard Instructor Fee | 116 Criminal History Search Fee |
| 22 Captive Insurance Corps Tax | 52 Parks Golf Fee Increases | 85 Increase Education Camp Fee | 117 Index Fee for Foreclosures |
| 23 Impose Sales Tax on Transportation-related Activity | 53 Double Food Processor License Fee | 86 H2O Withdrawal Reporting Fee | 118 Service Tax for Non-Residents |
| 24 Commercial Vehicle Reg. Fee | 54 Storm Water Permit | 87 Resident Hunting/Fishing Fees | 119 Bond Charge on NYC Housing |
| 25 Real Property Transfer Increase | 55 Repeal Credits for Businesses | 88 Income Definition of NY Presence | 120 Registration Fee for Lawyers |
| 26 MTA License/Permit Surcharge | 56 Lifetime Hunting/Fishing License | 89 Gains on Nonresident Partners | 121 QETC /Biofuel Credit Claims |
| 27 Home Care Assessment (Tax) | 57 Mine Reclamation Fee | 90 DMV Search Fee | 122 Hazardous Waste Fee |
| 28 Hunting & Fishing License Fees | 58 Boat Registration Fee Hikes | 91 DMV Dealer/ Transporter Fees | 123 Increase Bar Exam Fee |
| 29 Increase Beer/Wine Tax | 59 Establish Bad Check Fee | 92 DMV Photo Image Fee | 124 Electronic Manufacturing Fee |
| 30 Scofflaw Termination Fee Hike | 60 New Wetlands Permit Fees | 93 License Plate Reissuance Fee | |
| | 61 Parks Camping Fee Increases | 94 Year 2-Eliminated STAR Rebate | |
| | 62 Boiler Inspection Fee Increase | 95 Roll Back All Business Credits | |
| | 63 Establish Horse Entrance Fee | | |



SENATE REPUBLICANS: 78 Tax Cuts in Just Six Years

More Than \$11 Billion in New Tax Relief

Lowest Middle Class Tax Rates Since 1948

Lowest Manufacturing Tax Rates Since 1917

Lowest Corporate Tax Rates Since 1968

**A GREAT SESSION FOR
NEW YORK'S FAMILIES**



The Senate Republican Conference continued its commitment to New York's families during the 2016 Legislative Session by supporting programs and initiatives to help families achieve their goals and pursue their dreams. Highlights include:

- A new Paid Family Leave initiative that will protect an employee's job security and earnings if they need to take time off to care for newborns or other loved ones;
- Landmark legislation to address the heroin and opioid crisis in our communities, along with \$189 million in funding to strengthen prevention, treatment, recovery and education programs;
- A major new Middle Class Income Tax Cut, which will reduce taxes for millions of New Yorkers by approximately \$4.2 billion when fully implemented;
- Property tax relief, including \$2.7 billion in funding for STAR and Enhanced STAR, the continuation of property tax rebate checks, and record state school aid funding to alleviate local pressure to increase property taxes;
- An increase in State Education Aid of approximately \$1.5 billion, with record overall school funding of nearly \$25 billion -- helping to ensure that our communities have great schools so kids can learn, grow and succeed;
- Complete elimination of the GEA school aid cuts, which siphoned money from classrooms and students since its implementation in 2010, when Democrats controlled both the Senate and Assembly;
- Major funding for our local parks, and \$300 million for the Environmental Protection Fund to help improve air and water quality in communities across the state;
- More than \$1 billion in funding for the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP), helping thousands of young New Yorkers afford college;
- Millions of dollars in funding for women and family health initiatives, and full funding for the EPIC prescription drug program to assist New York's seniors; and
- Major new investments in highways, roads and bridges, helping to improve the quality of life in our communities and keeping local economies moving forward.

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR HOMEOWNERS



From establishing the STAR program, to enacting the historic property tax cap, the Senate Majority has consistently led the effort to provide relief to overburdened homeowners who are struggling to cope with high property taxes. The 2016 Legislative Session built upon the progress in several ways, helping to make New York more affordable for millions of homeowners. Here's how:

Record Funding For STAR: This year, more than \$2.7 billion will be used to fund New York's outstanding STAR and Enhanced STAR programs. These two programs deliver significant tax relief to millions of middle class families and senior citizens throughout the state. (\$1.77 billion for STAR, and \$940.7 million for Enhanced STAR.)

Delivering Rebate Checks: The new State Budget fully funds an additional round of property tax rebate checks. This fall, millions of homeowners will receive \$414 million in direct,

much-needed tax relief through a check in the mail. Checks will provide an average savings per household of \$350.

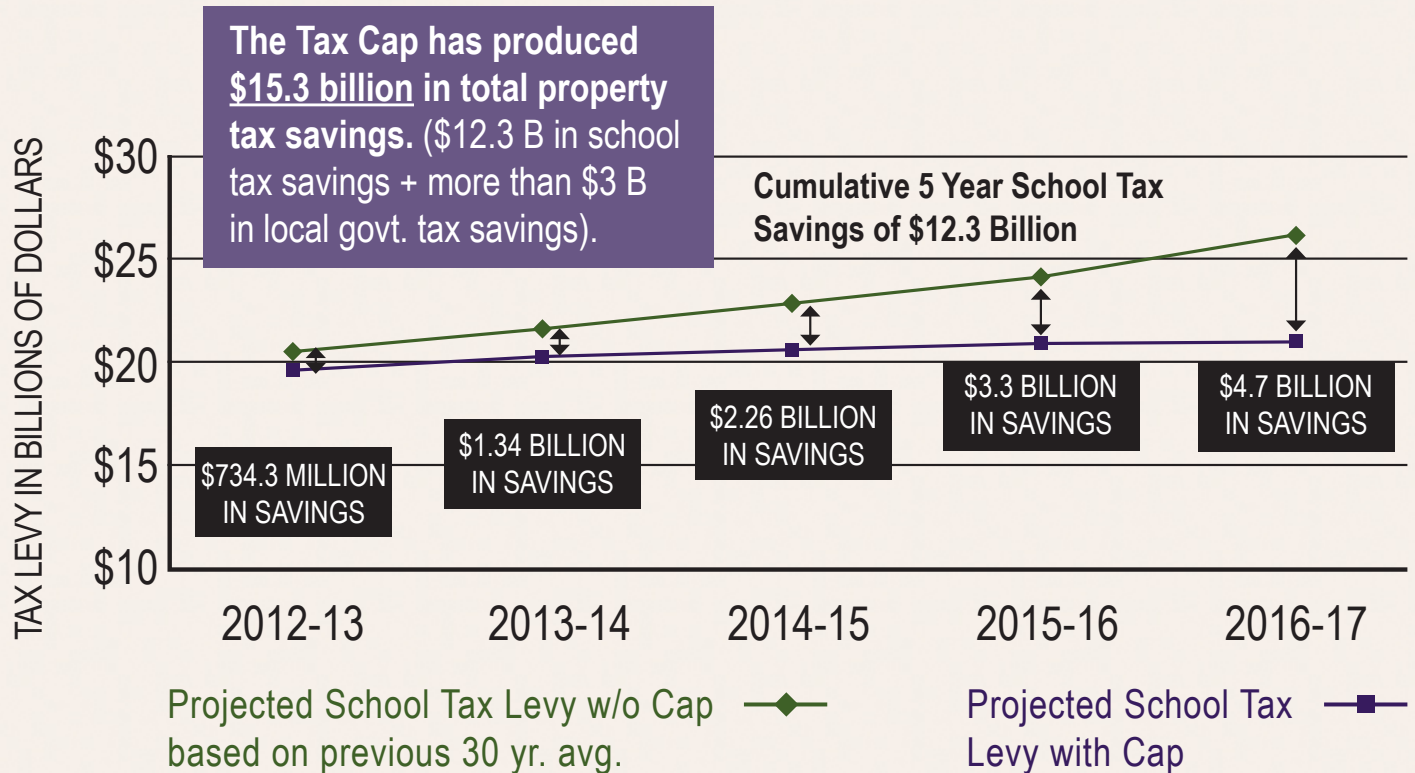
Record School Aid: By fully eliminating the GEA school aid cuts, while also providing a record-high level of aid to school districts throughout the state, the Senate Majority is not only providing New York's teachers and students the resources they need to succeed -- but also helping to alleviate pressure at the local level for property tax increases.

Ongoing Pension and Medicaid Savings: The Senate Republican Majority has always led the effort to help our partners at the local government level hold down property taxes. As a result of ongoing savings from pension and Medicaid reforms we've enacted, local governments will be protected from hundreds of millions of dollars in higher costs this year.

A photograph of a log cabin with a blue roof and white trim, surrounded by trees and a driveway. The scene is bathed in warm, golden light, likely from the setting or rising sun. A semi-transparent white box with a black border is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the text "NEW YORK'S PROPERTY TAX CAP".

**NEW YORK'S
PROPERTY TAX
CAP**

TAX CAP HAS DELIVERED MAJOR PROPERTY TAX SAVINGS



A photograph of a young couple with their newborn baby. The woman has long reddish-brown hair and is smiling down at the baby. The man has dark hair and a beard, also smiling. The baby is lying in the man's arms, wearing a pink outfit. The background is softly blurred, suggesting an indoor setting with natural light.

**LANDMARK
PAID FAMILY
LEAVE LAW**

Bringing a newborn into the world, or caring for a seriously ill family member, can be among the most important moments in anyone's life. They can also be complex and challenging events that require a great deal of time and energy. You should be able to focus on these moments without worrying about job security.

That's why the Senate Republican Majority proudly helped pass one of the best paid family leave packages in the nation. When fully implemented, employees will be eligible for 12 weeks of paid leave. Here's how it works:

- Beginning in 2018, benefits will begin at 50 percent of an employee's wage, capped at 50 percent of the statewide average salary.
- By 2021, employees will be eligible for 67 percent of his or her salary, capped at 67 percent of the statewide average.
- The program will be funded via a nominal payroll deduction on employees, costing businesses nothing.
- Employees will be eligible for paid family leave after six months of employment.

The Senate Republican Majority is committed to keeping New York's families strong. By passing historic paid family leave legislation, we're doing more than paying lip service to our families; we're putting their needs first.

**RECORD
INVESTMENTS
IN OUR
SCHOOLS**



One of the biggest successes for the Senate Majority this year was delivering on the promise that every child deserves access to an education that will help them excel in the classroom today and prepare them for the challenges of an ever-changing economy in the future.

To help make this possible, the Senate Republicans led the fight to increase education aid for the 2016-17 School Year by approximately \$1.5 billion. Overall, state school aid will total nearly \$25 billion in the coming year - the highest level of funding in state history. When combined with funding for New York's STAR school property tax program our financial commitment to education grows to over \$28 billion.

As a result of this major state aid increase to our schools, virtually every single school budget across the state (98.5 percent) was passed with significant voter approval on the first try.

Additional education highlights include:

- Complete elimination of the devastating GEA school aid cuts, as well as an unprecedented level of Foundation Aid;
- More funding to help control local school property taxes; and
- Fair and equitable funding for each of region of the state.

Thanks to this overwhelming record level funding for our schools, New York remains the national leader when it comes to investments made in education from grade school through high school. Once again, we have made it clear that we proudly stand with our students, our teachers and parents when it comes to ensuring that every child has the resources they need to succeed in the classroom.

A young boy with short brown hair, wearing a grey turtleneck sweater, is focused on writing in a notebook. He is holding a pink pencil. The background is a blurred classroom with other students. The text "COMPLETE ELIMINATION OF GEA SCHOOL AID CUTS" is overlaid in a black box at the bottom of the image.

**COMPLETE ELIMINATION
OF GEA SCHOOL AID CUTS**

The Senate Majority achieved one of its top priorities this year: the complete elimination of the disastrous Gap Elimination Adjustment school budget cuts.

The Gap Elimination Adjustment -- also known as the GEA -- was first imposed on New Yorkers in 2010 by former Governor David Paterson and the Democrats who controlled the Senate and Assembly. Since that time, the GEA budget cuts have had a devastating impact on school districts throughout the Empire State, costing our local schools billions of dollars.

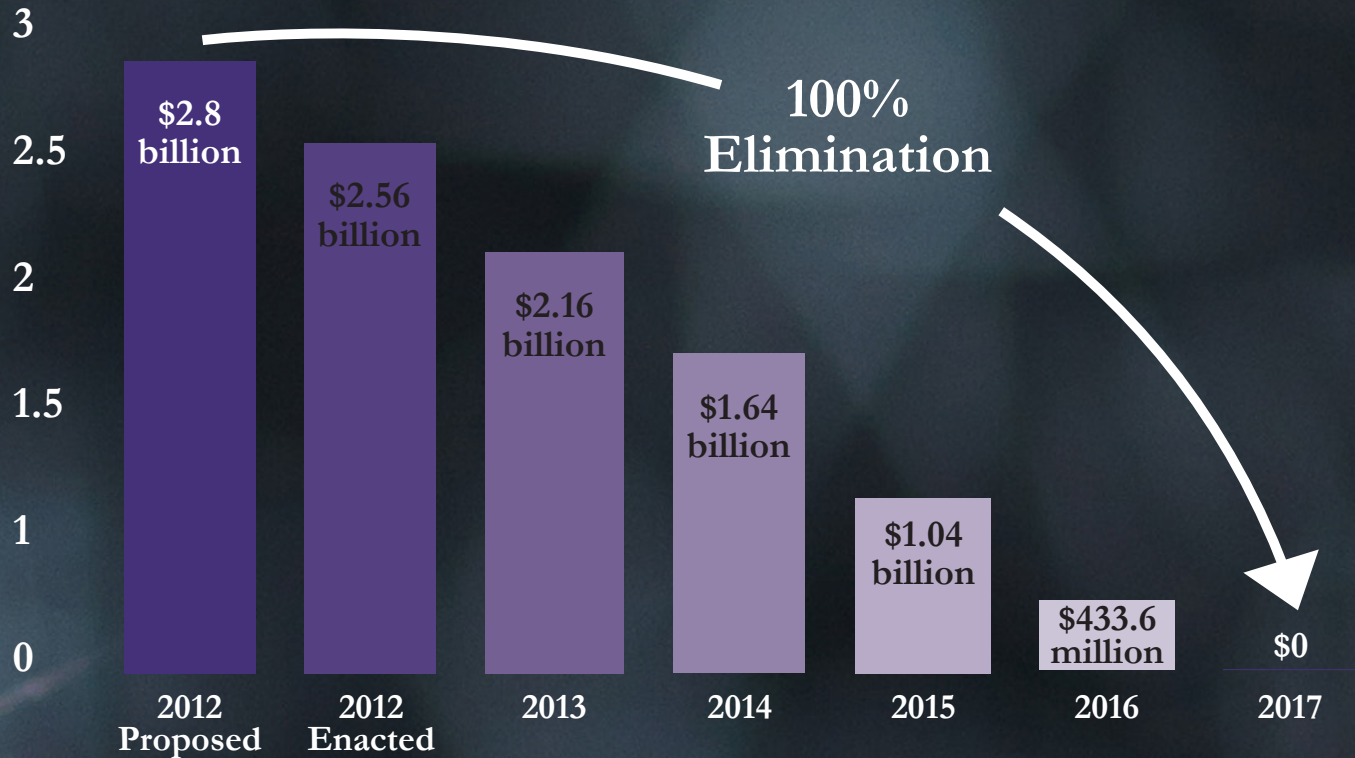
The Senate Republican Conference voted against the GEA because we knew that it would result in disastrous, multi-year budget cuts that would hurt children, teachers and taxpayers all across the state. And year after year, Senate Republicans have consistently led the effort to phase-out the GEA. In the process, we have delivered hundreds of millions of dollars in additional education aid to ease the burden it has placed on school districts.

While the Governor had originally proposed a two-year phase-out of the GEA in his Executive Budget, the Senate Majority stood strong and insisted upon a one-year timeline for its elimination.

In the end, we kept our promise to New York's children and completely eliminated the disastrous GEA once and for all.

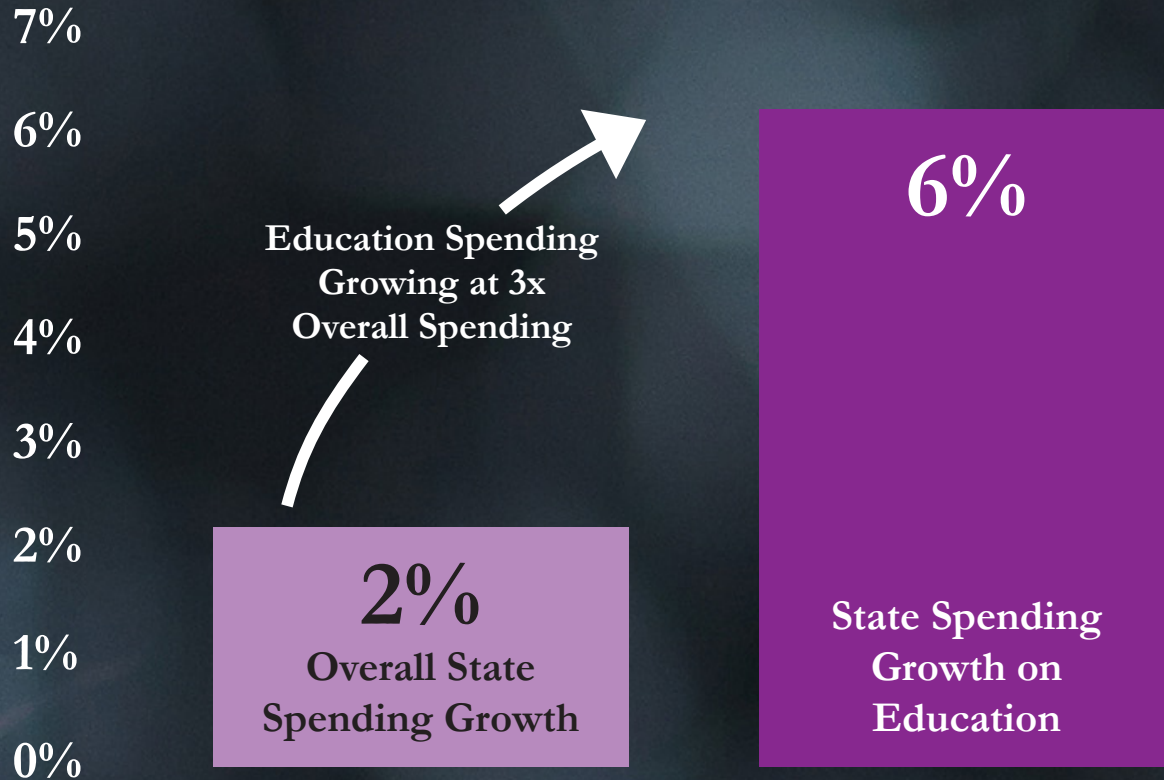
SENATE REPUBLICANS HAVE ELIMINATED THE DEMOCRATS' SCHOOL AID CUTS

Devastating GEA Cuts Are Now History



Cumulative GEA Reductions

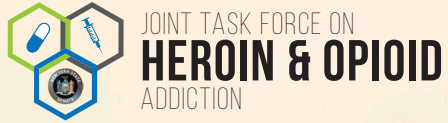
EDUCATION INVESTMENT OUTPACES ALL OTHER SPENDING



2016-2017 New York State Budget Spending Data

A woman with long brown hair, wearing a grey sweater, a blue scarf, and dark pants, is sitting on a concrete ledge. She is looking off to the side with a thoughtful expression. The background is a blurred cityscape with green trees and buildings under a warm, golden light. A black rectangular box is overlaid on the image, containing the text.

**LANDMARK LAWS
TO COMBAT
HEROIN & OPIOD
ADDICTION**



Heroin and opioid addiction continues to destroy far too many lives in local communities, devastating thousands of families across our state.

The Senate Majority recently helped to enact groundbreaking laws meant to stem the tide of this epidemic and save lives. These new laws will establish our state as the leader in the battle against addiction by:

- Enhancing insurance coverage for individuals seeking treatment and recovery services;
- Expanding access to addiction treatment opportunities; and
- Extending the length of time a person can receive these life-saving services.

In addition to these crucial measures, the New York State Senate Majority Task Force on Heroin and Opioid Addiction held a number of statewide forums and was instrumental in securing \$189 million in funding to strengthen prevention, treatment, recovery and education services as part of the 2016-17 State Budget.

There are no easy answers or quick fixes to solving the heroin and opioid epidemic. But with the measures passed by the Senate Republican Majority, we are working to prevent future tragedies and help thousands of New Yorkers overcome addiction.

A woman with blonde hair tied back, wearing a bright pink tank top, is the central focus. She is smiling slightly and stretching her right arm across her chest. The background is a lush green park with other people in similar pink attire, suggesting a group exercise or yoga session. The scene is brightly lit, likely in the morning or afternoon.

**MAJOR PROGRESS IN THE BATTLE
AGAINST BREAST CANCER**

Over 245,000 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be discovered among women in 2016, and over 40,000 women this year alone will lose their lives to this disease according to the American Cancer Society.

Yet, with access to proper, affordable preventative measures and treatment, we can save countless lives -- and that's just what our landmark new law will do. This year, the Senate Republican Majority passed legislation to support women's health in the battle against breast cancer by:

- Dramatically expanding access to mammograms and other detection procedures;
- Eliminating expensive co-pays and deductibles for certain screenings; and
- Making breast cancer screening, treatment and care more affordable and accessible for millions of our state's women.

We've all been affected by breast cancer in some way, whether personally or through a family member or friend. As a result of this year's bi-partisan action, we can better ensure that women throughout New York have access to life-saving preventative measures and treatments.



**ETHICS,
INTEGRITY AND
GOVERNMENT
ACCOUNTABILITY**

Year after year, the Senate Majority has worked to enact comprehensive reforms to promote integrity in government, ensure greater openness and transparency, and hold corrupt public officials accountable for their actions.

In the 2016-17 Legislative Session, the Senate Majority once again approved new reforms designed to ensure the most responsible, transparent and accountable government possible. These include:

- A Constitutional Amendment to strip pensions from corrupt government officials;
- Approving Senate Rules that impose Term Limits on Committee Chairs and Legislative Leaders;
- Passing new lobbying and political consultant reforms;
- Approving new campaign finance reforms to ensure greater transparency and accountability; and
- Improving the procedures and operations of the Joint Commission On Public Ethics (J-COPE).

Senate Republicans also voted to approve a new Constitutional Amendment that would dramatically empower voters across the state -- allowing them to remove elected officials from office through the process of recall. (The Assembly failed to take action on this measure.)

Senate Republicans also rejected misguided measures such as the so-called “public campaign financing bill” that would have required taxpayers to foot the bill for political campaigns.



SENATE TASK FORCE
ON WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT

**JOB TRAINING: PREPARING
ALL NEW YORKERS FOR A
SUCCESSFUL FUTURE**

Developing a skilled workforce and training people for high-demand jobs benefits us all – workers, employers, and our economy as a whole. Most importantly, it benefits families and communities.

Last year, the Senate Republican Majority created a Task Force on Workforce Development to review the state's existing programs. The Task Force held forums throughout the state and released a report summarizing the findings and providing legislative recommendations to improve the connections between job seekers and employers looking to hire new workers. The Senate approved a legislative package based on these recommendations that will:

- Expand the type of data collected by the Department of Labor to include forward-facing job statistics that can be used to accurately predict future needs and properly prepare the workforce for career opportunities;
- Invest \$35 million to expand New York State's Pathways in Technology Schools (P-TECHs) and Early College High Schools to meet student demand and enhance educational performance;
- Increase access to career and tech programs at BOCES;
- Improve participation in apprenticeships by promoting coordination between high school guidance counselors and local building trades councils;
- Create the Help Individuals Reach Employment (HIRE) program to help students who have graduated from a SUNY or CUNY institution but cannot find full-time employment; and
- Enhance degree or certificate programs at community colleges to increase job placements for students.

The Senate Majority also successfully delivered significant funding for job training and workforce development initiatives in this year's State Budget to help enhance New Yorkers' job skills -- creating a pathway to new opportunities, financial security and a successful career.



**MAKING
COLLEGE MORE
AFFORDABLE**

During the 2016 Legislative Session, Senate Republicans approved major new investments in New York's higher education system, provided increased funding for tuition assistance, and strongly supported community colleges and public and private universities across the state. Specific highlights include:

- **Tuition Assistance:** Funding for TAP was increased, with total funding of more than \$1 billion — helping thousands of young New Yorkers afford a quality higher education;
- **No Public College Tuition Increase:** Efforts to keep New York's public colleges and universities affordable received a boost when the Senate successfully prevented a proposed tuition increase for SUNY and CUNY;
- **Increased Support for Community Colleges:** Full-time equivalent (FTE) funding was increased by \$100. Base aid will be \$2,697 per FTE for the 2016-17 Fiscal Year. This represents a nearly \$20 million increase for SUNY and CUNY community colleges combined;
- **Preventing Bad Education Policies:** Through the Senate Republican Conference's efforts, the State Budget rejected a proposal to provide free college tuition to illegal immigrants at a time when many middle class New York families are struggling to pay for their children's higher education; and
- **Making it Easier to Save:** We've expanded contribution options to our state's popular 529 savings program by allowing the direct deposit of income tax returns into your child or children's 529 accounts.



**RECORD FUNDING
TO PROTECT OUR
ENVIRONMENT**

Record EPF Funding:

For many New Yorkers, enjoying and protecting our environment isn't just a hobby; it is a way of life. From the salt water shores of Long Island to the beautiful waters of our Finger Lakes, New York is home to more natural beauty than nearly any other state.

That is why the Senate Majority Conference fought for an historic \$300 million in funding for the New York State Environmental Protection Fund (EPF). This is a \$123 million increase over 2015-2016 funding levels, an increase of nearly 70%.

Additional Water Quality Improvements:

The Senate also successfully advocated for more funding to support critical water and environmental infrastructure improvements during this year's Legislative Session.

It provides an additional \$200 million over the next two years to build upon the investments included in last year's Water Quality Improvement Act. Municipalities will now be eligible to receive a total of \$350 million in grants in 2016-17 and 2017-18 to repair and replace existing wastewater and drinking water infrastructure.

Lead Testing in Schools:

The Senate Republicans pushed for passage of a new law that protects our most important resource—our children! This initiative ensures that periodic tap water testing for lead is conducted by schools to obtain important information about the quality of students' drinking water. While some schools in New York conduct testing for lead, not all do, and this bill would create a standard testing protocol to ensure students are protected.

A close-up photograph of a young girl with brown hair, wearing a pink polka-dot shirt, drinking water from a public water fountain. She is leaning forward, and water is flowing from the spout into her mouth. The background is bright and slightly out of focus. A dark grey rectangular box is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing white text.

SCHOOL WATER
TESTING TO KEEP
OUR KIDS SAFE
AND HEALTHY

Nothing is more important than the health and well-being of our children.

That's why the Senate Majority has voted to approve an important new measure that will help to protect children from potentially being exposed to dangerous lead levels in drinking water. If approved by the Governor, the legislation will ensure that periodic tap water testing for lead is conducted by schools and BOCES across New York State to obtain important information about the quality of students' drinking water.

According to the state Department of Health (DOH), lead can harm a young child's growth, behavior, and ability to learn. While some schools in New York conduct testing for lead, not all do, and this bill would create a standard testing protocol to ensure students are protected. School districts and BOCES would undergo periodic tap testing at a frequency to be set by DOH. Buildings built after 2014 will be exempt, schools testing negative would be given waivers, and schools with water containing unacceptable amounts of lead would be eligible for additional financial assistance for the costs of testing and remediation.

This critically important public health measure will help to ensure that children in communities all across New York State can grow up healthy and strong, and free from the serious health threats posed by lead poisoning.



**INVESTING IN
NEW YORK'S
INFRASTRUCTURE**

The Senate Republican Conference is working to revitalize the state's economy by making major new investments in capital infrastructure projects that will help create new jobs and stimulate economic activity in communities all across the state. Highlights include:

- **Fair, Regionally-Balanced Funding:** The 2016-17 State Budget re-establishes fairness in transportation funding and provides a more equitable and regionally balanced multi-year financing plan totaling \$27.1 billion. The plan ensures no region of the state will be shortchanged and that communities statewide will receive the critical funding needed to complete important local projects that provide jobs and assist economic development.
- **Pave NY/Bridge NY:** \$800 million is allocated over the next four years for local roads and bridges, including \$400 million (\$100 million per year) for local paving projects distributed based upon the CHIPS formula, and \$400 million for local bridge projects selected by localities.
- **CHIPS:** \$438 million is provided for the Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) to help local governments with important highway, road and bridge repair projects.
- **Other Modes:** Over \$1 billion in funding is allocated over five years for other transportation modes, including \$397 million for Upstate and non-MTA Downstate transit systems, \$352 million for rail freight and \$282 million for aviation.
- **MTA Capital Program:** An \$8.3 billion commitment enabled final approval of a \$26.6 billion 2015-2019 MTA Capital Plan that includes the purchase of over 1,700 buses and over 1,300 subway and commuter rail cars.



HELPING OUR SENIORS

For generations, New York's seniors have made enormous contributions to local communities throughout our state. Now in their golden years, our senior citizens deserve all the support we can give them. That's why record funding was approved by the Senate Majority during the 2016 Legislative Session to help enhance the quality of life for our seniors, including:

- **EPIC Program:** New York's outstanding Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) program will be fully funded at \$131.5 million to cover the prescription drug needs of our seniors.
- **Property Tax Relief:** The Senate approved property tax rebates for seniors, as well as full funding for the Enhanced STAR program which provides crucial tax relief to thousands of New York's seniors. \$1.5 billion in additional funding for our local schools was also approved -- helping to hold the line on our commitment to fight rising property taxes.
- **Senior Initiatives:** The Senate approved increased support for a wide array of programs and initiatives that serve seniors, including additional funding for the following:
 - \$28.9 million for Community Services for the Elderly Program;
 - \$26.6 million for Alzheimer's programs;
 - \$172,000 for the New York Foundation for Seniors Home Sharing and Respite; and
 - \$63,000 for the Senior Action Council Hotline.
- **Stopping Elder Abuse:**
 - The Senate Republican Majority has a longstanding commitment to the protection of our vulnerable seniors. During this year's Legislative Session we continued this commitment by providing \$1.4 million to support elder abuse prevention initiatives.
 - The Senate also passed legislation to: create a statewide central register of elder abuse and maltreatment reports and the elder justice coordinating council; mandate reporting of abuse by certain persons; facilitate interagency planning and review specific agency initiatives for their impact on the reporting and investigation of elder abuse and maltreatment in the state.



**HELPING
SMALL
BUSINESSES**

Ask any small business owner and they will all tell you the same thing: it all started with an idea. It's the nurturing of these ideas in a proper environment which allows them to become reality—the proper business climate helps those ideas to grow into prosperous business ventures.

The Senate Republican Conference's commitment to small businesses was clear throughout the 2016 Legislative Session. These efforts ultimately produced a number of steps that will prove beneficial to small businesses throughout the state. These include:

- **Major Tax Relief:** The Senate's landmark, new Personal Income Tax Cut will total more than \$4.2 billion, and will reduce taxes for tens of thousands of businesses in every community across the state.
- **Spending Control:** The Senate kept state spending growth at or below two percent for the sixth consecutive year. By maintaining spending discipline, and adhering to this self-imposed two-percent cap, we continue to protect small businesses from billions of dollars in higher taxes.
- **Job Training:** The Senate approved record funding for job training and workforce development initiatives. We also approved a series of bills designed to dramatically improve job training efforts across the state.
- **Minimum Wage:** With no support from the Governor or Assembly Democrats, the Senate Majority single-handedly led the effort to help reduce and mitigate the potentially negative impacts a new minimum wage increase could have on small businesses.

A young woman with dark hair tied in a bun, wearing blue scrubs, smiles warmly at the camera. She is holding a white clipboard with a blue folder and a pen. The background is a brightly lit hospital hallway with other staff members blurred in the distance.

**INVESTMENTS
IN A HEALTHY
FUTURE**

In addition to investing billions of dollars to ensure quality hospitals and nursing homes throughout New York State, the Senate approved funding for programs that promote good health in the young and old alike, including:

- \$25.3 million for Cancer Services Programs;
- \$9.7 million for chronic disease prevention (including diabetes, asthma & hypertension);
- \$26.3 million for Nutritional Information for Women, Infants and Children;
- \$2.3 million for the Prenatal Care Program;
- \$628,000 for Maternal and Child Health, including the Safe Motherhood Initiative;
- \$1.8 million for the Prenatal and Postpartum Home Visitation Program;
- \$620,500 for Women's Health Services;
- \$10.6 million for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention;
- \$5.5 million in Department of Health funding for Rape Crisis Centers;
- \$283,300 for the Adelphi Breast Cancer Support Program;
- \$26.6 million for Alzheimer's Programs;
- \$8.5 million in additional funding of the Spinal Cord Injury Research Board;
- \$1 million to support organ donation; and
- An additional \$1 million for the Doctors Across New York Program.

A close-up photograph of a person wearing teal medical scrubs, holding a black stethoscope. The person's hand is visible, with light-colored nail polish. The stethoscope is coiled around their arm. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue and white pattern. The entire image is framed by a thin black border.

**TAKING ACTION ON KEY
HEALTH MEASURES**

Ensuring quality health care for all New Yorkers is always one of our top priorities. That's why the Senate recently partnered with the Assembly on several important health and mental health bills which will now be sent to the Governor for his final review and enactment. These include the following:

- **Boosting Organ Donations (S5313A):** This measure will help increase the number of organ and tissue donors by lowering the age of consent to become a donor to 16.
- **Strengthening NY's Patient Bill of Rights (S6347B):** This measure requires each hospital's Patient Bill of Rights and Responsibilities to include a statement with information including a list of standard charges, participating health plans, the right to be held harmless from surprise bills and emergency services bills, and to designate a caregiver upon being discharged.
- **Protecting Vulnerable New Yorkers (S7584):** This new law will give the necessary authority to the Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs to visit, inspect, and appraise the management of out-of-state schools or facilities that serve New Yorkers with special needs.
- **Eliminating the Discriminatory Tampon Tax (S6726A):** This measure exempts certain essential feminine hygiene products from state sales tax.
- **Infant Safety (S6730):** This new law will require the Department of Health to distribute crib safety information to maternity patients. This information will detail safe sleeping procedures for babies, crib product recalls, and disclosure of the federal standards on the manufacture and sale of cribs.
- **Improving Early Intervention (S7689):** This new measure will add representatives of managed care plans or managed care plan trade associations who work in the early intervention field as members of the Early Intervention Coordinating Council.
- **Step Therapy (S3419C):** A bill that clamps down on so-called "fail-first" protocols that health insurers use when it comes to prescriptions. The bill gives doctors a transparent process to ensure that patients receive the prescription drugs they need.

A photograph of three children sitting on a wooden bench in a lush, green field. The child on the left is a boy with brown hair, wearing a green jacket and bright green boots, blowing bubbles. The child in the middle is a girl with brown hair, wearing a grey cardigan and pink boots, smiling. The child on the right is a boy with brown hair, wearing a blue jacket and blue boots, blowing bubbles. The background is a soft-focus forest with sunlight filtering through the trees. A white rectangular box with a black border is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the text.

**COMBATING LYME
AND TICK-BORNE
DISEASES**

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), New York State has the third highest number of confirmed cases of Lyme disease in the entire country.

While there is great debate in the medical community about how best to treat Lyme disease and tick-borne infections, it is commonly accepted that early education and prevention are key to controlling the spread of the disease. That's why the Senate worked to secure \$600,000 in this year's State Budget to help support research, education and prevention efforts.

The Senate also recently approved legislation -- advocated by the Senate Task Force on Lyme and Tick-Borne Diseases -- that directs the state to develop instructional tools and materials to assist in an educational program to protect children from Lyme disease and tick-borne infections.

Now our children will have age-appropriate, visual instructional tools in schools and libraries to help them:

- Identify ticks which vary in size from the time they are nymphs to adults and change in size when engorged;
- Understand how to respond when they find a tick on their body, as it's best to have a knowledgeable adult remove the tick once it starts to engorge; and
- Learn where exposure to ticks is greatest and how to check for ticks before they attach to the body.

KEEPING NEW YORKERS SAFE



The members of the Senate Majority Conference have always recognized that the foremost obligation of any government is the protection of its people.

With this in mind, the Senate Majority once again led the effort throughout this year's Legislative Session to approve common-sense criminal justice reforms designed to keep our communities safe, secure, and free from crime and violence. Among these critically important public safety measures are the following:

- A package of bills cracking down on child abuse, sex offenders, traffickers and drug dealers;
- Brittany's Law, creating a violent felon registry to increase community awareness of predators and violent offenders that may be lurking in their neighborhood;
- A terrorist registry, providing authorities with better tools to track suspected terrorists; and
- Legislation creating the new crime of inciting violence against a police officer, making it a felony to deliberately target law enforcement.

As in past years, the Assembly Democrats declined to take action on these much-needed law enforcement bills.

**STRONG
SUPPORT FOR
NEW YORK'S
HEROES**



The Senate Majority has always had unwavering respect for the heroic servicemen and women who have sacrificed so much to serve our nation. During this year's Legislative Session, the Senate approved funding for the following:

- \$2.8 million for the Joseph P. Dwyer Veteran Peer-to-Peer Program;
- \$450,000 for the Veteran's Mental Health Training Initiative;
- \$500,000 for the NYS Defenders Association Veteran's Defense Program;
- \$200,000 for Legal Services of the Hudson Valley Veterans and Military Families Advocacy Project;
- \$250,000 additional for the Veterans Outreach Center in Monroe County (\$500,000 total funding);
- \$200,000 for Warrior Salute;
- \$100,000 for the Veterans Justice Project;
- \$100,000 for the SAGE Veterans Project;
- \$40,000 for the Vietnam Veterans of America New York State Council;
- \$200,000 for Helmets-to-Hardhats; and
- \$25,000 for the Veterans Miracle Center.

VETERANS BUYBACK BILL IS FINALLY LAW – After passing the Legislature three times, and being vetoed twice, the Veterans Buyback Bill has finally been signed into law. The new law allows all honorably discharged service members with five years of existing public pension credit to purchase three years of credit for their military service.

The Senate Republican Conference fought hard to enact this law to honor those who have bravely served our country and to encourage them to return to New York and continue their public service.

STRENGTHENING AGRICULTURE: NEW YORK'S LEADING INDUSTRY

An abundance of fresh, quality food and farm products is not only good for our families, it's also great for New York's economy. Agriculture is one of our state's top industries, with 35,000 farms supporting a workforce that's over 100,000 strong. Investing in New York's agriculture industry has long been a priority for the Senate Republican Majority, as we supported more than \$32 million in budget restorations over the past five years. This year, we built on that commitment by providing significant support for key research, marketing and education programs, including:

- Funding for Future Farmers of America (FFA) and other vital agricultural programs;
- Additional \$1 million in funding for the Beginning Farmers plan, as well as the Beginning Farmers Student Loan Forgiveness Program;
- Updated the state's antiquated alcohol control laws, cutting red tape and fees for our state's burgeoning farm winery, distillery, cidery and craft brewery industries; and
- Continued support for the two percent cap on farm assessments, which saved farmers more than \$23 million in its first two years.

From cider and dairy products to fruits and vegetables, New York's hardworking farmers produce quality food that we all depend on each and every day. We must continue to do all that we can to help them grow and thrive.

Through the Senate Majority's efforts, the Senate approved funding for the following:

- The Apple Growers Association;
- The Apple Research and Development Board;
- The Berry Growers Association;
- The Christmas Tree Growers Association;
- The Corn and Soybean Growers Association;
- The Cornell Diagnostic Lab;
- Cornell Onion Research;
- Cornell Maple Research;
- Dairy Profit Teams at Farm Viability;
- Deer Fence Matching Grants;
- The Eastern Equine Encephalitis Program;
- FarmNet;
- Farm-to-Seniors Assistance;
- The Farm Viability Institute;
- Honeybee Research at Cornell;
- Hops and Barley Research at Cornell;
- The Genesee Agriculture Academy;
- Grown on Long Island;
- Island Harvest;
- Local Fairs Assistance;
- Low-Cost Vaccine Program;
- The Maple Producers Association;
- The Northern NY Agriculture Development Program;
- The Pro-Dairy Program;
- The Tractor Rollover Prevention Program;
- The Turfgrass Association;
- The Vegetable Growers Association;
- The Wine and Grape Foundation;
- The Wood Products Council;
- The Cornell Veterans to Farms Program;
- The Future Farmers of America;
- The North Country Agriculture Academy; and
- Rabies Programs at Cornell.

A wide-angle photograph of a grand legislative chamber, likely the U.S. House of Representatives, during a session. The room is filled with members of Congress seated at their desks, which are arranged in a semi-circle. The chamber features high ceilings with intricate woodwork and gold leaf accents, large arched windows, and ornate chandeliers. The text "A WIDE ARRAY OF LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS" is overlaid in a white box with a dark border in the center of the image.

A WIDE ARRAY OF LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

After passage by both the Senate Republican Majority and the Assembly, the following measures will become law with the approval of the Governor:

- A landmark new measure to require lead testing in schools across New York;
- After passing in the Senate for eight straight years, the hugely popular sport of mixed-martial arts (MMA) is now legal in New York;
- Railway safety legislation that requires inspections of rail crossing equipment at least every two years and increased penalties for railroad companies and drivers that violate safety rules;
- Renewal of Lauren’s Law, expanding the list of organ donors in New York by making the decision to donate a mandatory question on all license applications;
- Revisions to the antiquated “Sunday Brunch” provision of the state’s alcohol control laws, so eateries can now offer alcoholic beverages at 10 AM;
- A new initiative which requires that research dogs and cats be offered for adoption with private individuals or with animal rescue and shelter organizations as an alternative to having them euthanized;
- An important local fiscal relief measure that will require the state to reimburse local governments for the costs associated with indigent legal defense services;
- An important environmental protection measure that establishes the New York State Ocean Acidification Task Force to evaluate the impacts of ocean acidification and make recommendations about how to reduce the impacts;
- A new tax credit for the purchase and installation of geothermal energy systems – a natural and renewable form of energy;
- A measure to better ensure child safety by reducing the number of illegal or non-compliant child care operators;
- Legislation to help protect our most vulnerable children by establishing workload standards for child protective services (CPS) workers. Full-time CPS workers would have no more than 15 active cases to help better ensure effective investigations of abuse and maltreatment;
- A key health care proposal that will help prevent the death of high-risk babies born prematurely by requiring medical assistance coverage for the cost of donor breast milk in certain circumstances;
- A new initiative that connects fresh local farm products with New Yorkers in need by creating a tax credit for farmers who donate to a food bank or other emergency food program, thereby encouraging more donations of healthy, wholesome, locally-grown food;
- Legislation to establish a new Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Board consisting of autism experts, advocates, and representatives from the state education, health, mental health, and child welfare agencies; and
- A measure enabling Cold War veterans to become eligible for a veterans exemption from school taxes in districts that offer such a benefit.



**PREVENTING BAD
LEGISLATION FROM
BECOMING LAW**

Each and every year, members of the Senate Democrat Conference advance legislative proposals that are either exceptionally costly, woefully misguided, or both. And every year, the Senate Majority Conference effectively blocks these ill-considered proposals from becoming law.

This year, the list of misguided proposals that we prevented from becoming law included:

- A proposal to establish taxpayer-funded political campaigns, costing taxpayers up to \$200 million;
- A bill providing free, taxpayer funded college tuition for illegal immigrants;
- A bill allowing illegal immigrants to vote, obtain drivers licenses, serve on juries and collect welfare benefits; and
- Numerous proposals to erode the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens.

THE NYS SENATE
REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE

**THE 2016
LEGISLATIVE
SESSION**

