THE 2017 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

WORKING TOGETHER TO GIVE ALL NEW YORKERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO SUCCEED

> THE NYS SENATE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE



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Dear Friend:

The Senate Republican Conference is committed to working together to give all New Yorkers the opportunity to succeed. The 2017 Legislative Session reflects this committment in a number of ways:

- Approving a landmark \$2.5 billion investment to ensure clean, safe drinking water;
- Legalizing ridesharing services like Uber and Lyft statewide;
- Enacting major workers' compensation reforms to help cut costs and create jobs;
- Providing unprecedented funding to combat heroin and opioid addiction;
- Delivering a record amount of aid to our schools so our children have the resources they need to succeed;
- Protecting a major tax cut of more than \$4 billion to help millions of middle-class New Yorkers and thousands of small businesses;
- Saving New Yorkers \$400 million by rejecting several of the Governor's costly new tax and fee hikes;
- Providing \$3.6 billion in tax relief by fully funding STAR, Enhanced STAR, and property tax relief checks;
- Expanding college affordability for hardworking, middle-class families; and
- Protecting New Yorkers from escalating taxes by holding the line on spending, keeping it within a self-imposed two-percent spending cap.

Making New York more affordable for hardworking, middle-class families and seniors... Strengthening our commitments to job training, health care, public education and programs to combat heroin addiction... That's what the Senate Republican Conference is dedicated to doing, and that's exactly what we accomplished during this year's session.

The following pages provide a brief overview of the highlights of this year's Legislative Session. For additional details, please visit **NYSENATE.GOV**.



CONTROLLING SPENDING AND PROVIDING TAX RELIEF

To keep New York State moving forward, we must continue to make it more affordable for our residents. There were two ways the Senate Republican Conference accomplished that goal during this year's session by:

- Controlling Spending; and
- Providing Tax Relief.

For the seventh straight year, the Senate Republican Conference held spending within a two-percent cap. This self-imposed measure has already saved taxpayers approximately \$41 billion and is crucial in protecting New Yorkers from future tax increases.

It's just one part of our ongoing effort to make New York more affordable for overburdened taxpayers. The Senate Republican Conference also:

- Successfully protected an historic \$4.2 billion tax cut for middle-class families and small businesses;
- Rejected hundreds of millions of dollars in new taxes and fees proposed by the Governor, including a tax on Internet purchases, new DMV fees and a proposal to cap STAR;
- Provided approximately \$3.6 billion for critically important property tax relief, including STAR, Enhanced STAR, and property tax relief checks; and
- Delivered approximately \$1.1 billion in additional school aid, for a record \$29 billion in overall aid, helping to protect local homeowners from rising property taxes.

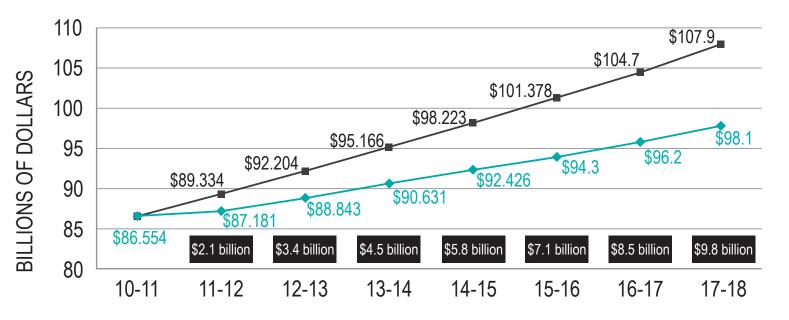
By holding the line on spending and providing tax relief for everyday New Yorkers, our Conference worked to ensure that millions of families can better afford to live here for generations to come.

PROTECTING TAXPAYERS WITH A SPENDING CAP



OUR SELF-IMPOSED SPENDING CAP HAS NOW SAVED NEW YORK TAXPAYERS APPROXIMATELY \$41 BILLION

(\$6,762 IN SAVINGS PER TAXPAYER)



Spending at 3.2% (average annual growth prior to cap)

Spending w/ Self-Imposed Cap



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 85 tax cuts over the past seven years, saving taxpayers \$12 billion.

SENATE DEMOCRATS: <u>124 New Tax **Hikes** in Just Two Years</u> \$14 Billion in Higher Taxes (Senate Republicans Voted Against ALL These Taxes and Fees)

1 Personal Income Tax Increase 2 Eliminate STAR Property Rebate 3 MTA Region Payroll 4 18-A Utility Increase 5 NY Power Authority Sweep 6 Insurance Policy Tax 7 State / City University Tuition 8 MTA Registration Surcharge 9 Shift Healthy NY Direct Pay Stop Loss to Ins. Assessment (DRP) 10 Hospital Assessment (Tax) 11 Cut Itemized Deductions for High Income Taxpavers 12 Hospital Surcharge (Tax) 13 Health Insurance Tax 14 Enhanced "Bottle Bill" deposits 15 Empire Zones Business Tax 16 MTA Taxi Surcharge 17 Surcharge Hike on Auto Ins. 18 Vehicle Registration Fee Hike 19 Non-LLC Partnerships Fee 20 Driver License Renewal Hike 21 MTA Auto Rental 5% Surcharge 22 Captive Insurance Corps Tax 23 Impose Sales Tax on Transportationrelated Activity 24 Commercial Vehicle Reg. Fee 25 Real Property Transfer Increase 26 MTA License/Permit Surcharge 27 Home Care Assessment (Tax) 28 Hunting & Fishing License Fees 29 Increase Beer/Wine Tax

30 Scofflaw Termination Fee Hike 31 Photo Document DMV Fee 32 Increase Cigar Tax 33 Internet Dot-Com Hike 34 Remove Cap DMV Surcharges 35 Auto Rental Fee 36 Trailer Registration Fee Hikes 37 Asbestos Notification Fee 38 Tobacco Retail Registration Fee 39 New Marine Fishing License 40 Increase Pesticide Fees 41 Covered Lives Assessment Tax 42 Highway Use Fee Increase 43 Taxi and Bus Registration Fee 44 Establish Tax Preparer Fee 45 Certificate of Need Fee Hike 46 In-state use of Out-of-state Vehicles 47 Vehicle Re-Registration Fee 48 Driver License Suspension Fee Hike 49 State Pollutant Discharge Fees 50 Nuclear Power Plant Fee Hike 51 Custom Vehicle Registration 52 Parks Golf Fee Increases 53 Double Food Processor License Fee 54 Storm Water Permit 55 Repeal Credits for Businesses 56 Lifetime Hunting/Fishing License 57 Mine Reclamation Fee 58 Boat Registration Fee Hikes 59 Establish Bad Check Fee 60 New Wetlands Permit Fees 61 Parks Camping Fee Increases

62 Boiler Inspection Fee Increase 63 Establish Horse Entrance Fee 64 Clean Air Operating Permit Fee 65 Establish Promotion Exam Fee 66 Parks Cabin Fee Increases 67 Driver's License Reinstatement Fee 68 Retail Food Store License Fee Hike 69 Air Contamination Fees 70 Motor Vehicle Certificate Fee 71 Parks Empire Passports Hikes 72 Parks Marina Fee Increases 73 Security Guard Training Fee 74 Heavy Vehicle Registration Fee 75 State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) Fee 76 Local Written Exam Fees 77 Parks Permit Fee Increases 78 Food Warehouse Fee Hike 79 (ATV) Registration Fee Increase 80 Open Competitive Exam Fee 81 Motorcycle Registration Hike 82 In-transit Permits Fee Increases 83 Feed Tonnage Fees-Farms Fee 84 Security Guard Instructor Fee 85 Increase Education Camp Fee 86 H20 Withdrawal Reporting Fee 87 Resident Hunting/Fishing Fees 88 Income Definition of NY Presence 89 Gains on Nonresident Partners 90 DMV Search Fee 91 DMV Dealer/Transporter Fees 92 DMV Photo Image Fee

93 License Plate Reissuance Fee 94 Year 2-Eliminated STAR Rebate 95 Roll Back All Business Credits 96 Sales Tax on Clothing Purchases 97 Excise Tax on Cigarette Packs Hike 98 Income Charitable Deduction 99 NYC STAR Income Rate Hike 100 Timothy's Law Reimbursement Cut 101 Make REIT/RIC Provisions Permanent 102 Increase Tobacco Products Tax 103 Increase Moist Snuff Tax 104 "Little Cigars" Tax 105 Retiree's Medicare Tax 106 Add Back Sales Deduction 107 Consumer Credit Judaments 108 Surplus from Workers Insurers 109 Eliminate Sales Vendor Credit 110 Cut STAR Exemptions for High Incomes 111 Internet Hotel (Expedia Tax) 112 Fliminate Credit Card Refund 113 Banks Bad Debt Deduction 114 Treat S-Corp Gains as Taxable 115 Waste Tire Management Fee 116 Criminal History Search Fee 117 Index Fee for Foreclosures 118 Service Tax for Non-Residents 119 Bond Charge on NYC Housing 120 Registration Fee for Lawyers 121 OFTC /Biofuel Credit Claims 122 Hazardous Waste Fee 123 Increase Bar Exam Fee

124 Electronic Manufacturing Fee

SENATE REPUBLICANS: 85 Tax Cuts in Over Seven Years

\$12 Billion in New Tax Relief Lowest Middle Class Tax Rates Since 1948 Lowest Manufacturing Tax Rates Since 1917 Lowest Corporate Tax Rates Since 1968



LANDMARK INVESTMENTS IN CLEAN, SAFE WATER

All New Yorkers have a right to clean, safe drinking water.

That's why the Senate Republican Conference led the effort to approve an historic investment of \$2.5 billion in clean water projects during the 2017 Legislative Session. These projects, taking place in communities throughout the state, will help ensure that everyone has access to clean, safe drinking water by addressing critical water quality issues and infrastructure needs.

Other successful initiatives the Senate Republican Conference fought for include:

- Creation of a new Drinking Water Quality Council, bringing together experts to review existing evidence, study contaminants of concern and make recommendations to the Department of Health regarding drinking water safety, including state specific thresholds and public notice procedures;
- Establishment of the Emerging Contaminant Monitoring Act, requiring the testing of all public water systems for unregulated contaminants that are known, or anticipated to be present in drinking water, including PFOA, PFOS and 1,4-Dioxane;
- \$20 million (of the record \$300 million in funding secured by the Senate Republican Conference) from the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) to be used for clean water projects; and
- An additional \$275 million in continued funding for Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds.

RIDESHARING IS NOW A STATEWIDE REALITY



Ridesharing apps like Uber and Lyft have long been available for use all across the country and in New York City, but until this year they remained unavailable for the rest of the state.

Thanks to the advocacy of the Senate Republican Conference, this year's budget gave the green light to ridesharing services across the Empire State.

We also enacted legislation to speed the implementation of ridesharing in advance of the busy July 4th holiday, as well as a separate bill to ensure that no registered sex offender can be employed as a driver for a ridesharing company.

By paving the way for ridesharing for our entire state, residents and visitors now have more options than ever for safe, affordable, reliable transportation services.

The expansion of ridesharing is great news for millions of New Yorkers, and will also have a positive impact on tourism and our state's private sector economy.

COMBATING HEROIN AND OPIOID ADDICTION



The heroin and opioid crisis has impacted communities all across New York State, leaving behind a devastating trail of heartbroken families and individuals.

While there are no easy answers to this epidemic, the New York Senate Joint Task Force on Heroin and Opioid Addiction continues to work hard at developing and enacting real, lasting solutions that can provide hope for thousands of New Yorkers, regardless of age, race or gender.

This year, the Senate Task Force helped secure a record \$214 million in funding to strengthen prevention, treatment, recovery and education services across the state. In addition, the Senate passed a series of measures to help law enforcement crack down on dealers and make our neighborhoods safer.

As always, the Senate Republican Conference remains dedicated to providing law enforcement, health care professionals and mental health experts throughout New York with the life-saving tools they need to help end this public health crisis.



Direct care workers provide the most basic needs to New Yorkers with developmental and intellectual disabilities, a job that requires an incredible amount of time, dedication and energy.

Earlier this year, the Governor failed to provide funding in his budget proposal to increase wages for direct care workers. **But the Senate Republican Conference fought back and successfully approved a \$146 million multi-year boost in wages to compensate direct care and other clinical professionals for their vital work.** This will be crucial in appropriately adjusting salaries for workers who provide services for individuals with disabilities, as well as for staff at not-for-profits under the purview of the Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services and the Office of Mental Health.

The new funding breaks down as follows: \$55.5 million in additional annual wage compensation for direct care staff in the 2017-18 fiscal year, followed by an additional \$90 million annually that starts next year and includes direct care and clinical staff.

Direct care workers are essential in helping vulnerable individuals lead fuller, more independent lives. This new funding will help ensure that these dedicated workers receive fair compensation for their essential work.



RECORD FUNDING FOR NEW YORK'S SCHOOLS

The Senate Republican Conference is committed to helping every child realize their full potential. During the 2017 Legislative Session, we successfully fought for a state education aid increase of approximately \$1.1 billion to help turn that tremendous potential into reality. **Overall, education funding will now reach a record amount, approximately \$26 billion, in the coming year. When combined with the STAR school tax relief program, New York State's total investment in public schools and our children's future will be a remarkable \$29 billion this year.**

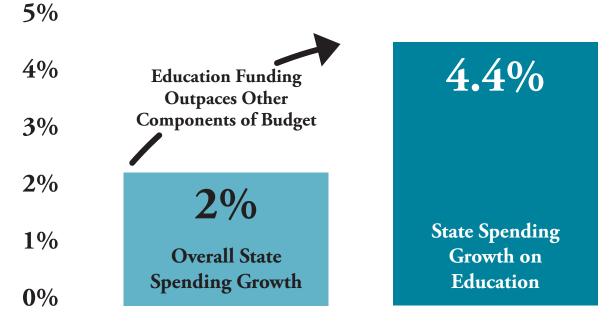
This historic level of funding, which is hundreds of millions of dollars beyond the Governor's original proposal, will help broaden horizons for children across our state. Overall, the Senate Republican Conference delivered:

- An unprecedented level of Foundation Aid and a record amount of overall school aid to help foster success in every classroom;
- Major funding to help control property taxes; and
- Fair and equitable funding for each region of our state.

Our success in increasing school aid this year continues the Senate Republican Conference's longstanding commitment to our schools, our community and our children.

SCHOOL FUNDING CONTINUES TO OUTPACE OTHER PRIORITIES

EDUCATION FUNDING IS GROWING AT MORE THAN TWICE THE RATE OF THE REST OF THE BUDGET



2017-2018 New York State Budget Spending Data

PROVIDING HOMEOWNERS WITH PROPERTY TAX RELIEF Time and again, the Senate Republican Conference has led the effort to alleviate the burden of high property taxes for our homeowners, and through measures like establishing the STAR program and enacting the historic property tax cap, we've made great strides.

In the 2017 Legislative Session we worked to make homeownership more affordable for millions of New Yorkers by supporting more than \$3.6 billion in new property tax relief this year.

Fully Funding STAR: New York's outstanding STAR and Enhanced STAR programs were fully funded this year, ensuring millions of middle-class families and senior citizens statewide will continue to receive major tax relief.

Rejecting a Cap on STAR: The Senate also successfully rejected a proposal by the Governor that would have capped the amount of savings property owners receive for STAR at this current year's levels. **By rejecting this cap, we helped save local taxpayers an estimated \$50 million this year and nearly \$700 million over five years.**

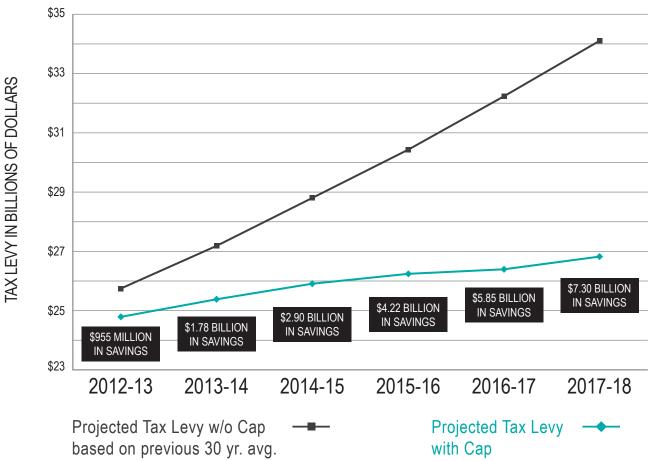
Delivering Rebate Checks: An additional round of property tax rebate checks, providing millions of homeowners with \$453 million in direct, much-needed tax relief through a check in the mail was secured by the Senate Republican Conference.

Record School Aid: The record level of school aid the Senate Republican Conference delivered this year does more than give New York's teachers and students the resources they need to succeed; it helps reduce the pressure for massive property tax hikes.

NEW YORK'S PROPERTY TAX CAP



TAX CAP HAS DELIVERED \$23 BILLION IN PROPERTY TAX SAVINGS





HELPING FAMILIES



The Senate Republican Conference is focused on policies and initiatives that make New York a better place to live and raise a family. From major property tax relief, to record funding for our schools, to unprecedented investments that will ensure clean water in communities statewide, this year's Legislative Session reflected our steadfast commitment to helping families in New York succeed and prosper. Highlights include:

- Delivering \$47 million to assist middle-class families with the high costs of child and dependent care by expanding the state's Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit for taxpayers with incomes between \$50,000 and \$150,000 and raising the current cap on child care expenses from \$6,000 to a maximum of \$9,000 for families with up to five children;
- Providing approximately \$3.6 billion for critically important property tax relief, including STAR and Enhanced STAR, and property tax relief checks;
- Preserving last year's historic \$4.2 billion middle-class tax cut;
- Increasing school aid by approximately \$1.1 billion, raising total school aid to a record-high level;
- Securing historic funding for clean, safe drinking water across the Empire State;
- Making college more affordable for middle-class families, with more than \$1.1 billion in new support for TAP;
- Providing record funding to combat heroin and opioid addiction;
- Fully funding the EPIC prescription drug program for seniors and investing in women's and family health initiatives;
- Boosting our local economies and quality of life through essential infrastructure investments; and
- Allowing convenient ridesharing services like Uber and Lyft to become available statewide an important step that will be great for residents across New York.



MAKING CHILD CARE MORE AFFORDABLE

The cost of child and dependent care continues to increase, placing a major burden on hardworking families throughout New York. During this year's Legislative Session, the Senate Republican Conference took meaningful steps to help make it more affordable by expanding the state's Child and Dependent Tax Credit.

Due to our Conference's advocacy, \$47 million is now available to assist middle-class families with these high costs. Taxpayers with incomes between \$50,000 and \$150,000 are eligible for this tax credit, and we've also raised the current cap on child care expenses from \$6,000 to a maximum of \$9,000 for families with up to five children to provide additional relief.

Balancing your family's needs and still making ends meet is difficult, but the expansion of this tax credit will help to make it a little easier for our hardworking middle-class families.

MAKING COLLEGE MORE AFFORDABLE

Helping hardworking, middle-class families afford college is a top priority for the Senate Republican Conference. That's why we approved the following measures during the 2017 Legislative Session:

- A record-high level of Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) funding of more than \$1.1 billion;
- Help for more than 25,000 additional students struggling to afford the cost of a college education;
- The largest infrastructure program to update and improve SUNY and CUNY statewide;
- Strong support for our outstanding community colleges, including a \$50 increase per full time equivalent (FTE); and
- Help for working parents by delivering \$3.1 million for part-time community college students.

We also succeeded in significantly modifying and improving Governor Cuomo's original "Free Tuition" proposal. As a result of these efforts, the final plan includes important provisions promoting student responsibility and accountability, such as minimum GPA standards for eligibility, enhanced steps to promote on-time graduation and a requirement that graduates remain in New York State for several years after graduation. (This move will help end the post-graduate exodus of students from our state.) The final budget also includes measures to maintain "student choice" and to keep New York's outstanding private colleges and universities from being hurt by the Governor's original plan. This includes \$19 million for a new Enhanced Tuition Award initiative specifically designed for students at private colleges and universities.

The Senate also took action to approve the following measures, which passed both houses:

- Extending STEM Scholarship Eligibility to Private Colleges: Bill S2466A broadens the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Incentive program to include applicants attending a private college, in addition to SUNY/CUNY.
- Investing in Our Campuses: Bill S1625 would help to better guarantee full funding of critical maintenance needs for senior colleges at SUNY and CUNY.



SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESSES

The Senate Republican Conference's strong support for small businesses was clear throughout this Legislative Session, and proved to be crucial in the enactment of a package that will boost small businesses statewide. These include:

- Major Workers' Compensation Reform: Our Conference successfully enacted significant reforms and improvements to the state's workers' compensation system, enacting new measures to help achieve meaningful savings and make doing business in New York more affordable.
- **Significant Tax Relief:** The Senate protected the landmark \$4.2 billion income tax cut enacted last year, reducing taxes for tens of thousands of small businesses in communities across the state.
- **Controlling Spending:** For the seventh straight year, the state has adhered to a self-imposed two-percent spending cap. Through this and continued spending discipline, we can shield small businesses from billions of dollars in higher taxes.
- Job Training: We approved record funding this year for job training and workforce development initiatives.
- **Ridesharing:** Ridesharing services like Uber and Lyft will now be available statewide a great step to assist tourism, economic growth and thousands of small businesses statewide.

The Senate also took action to approve the following measures, which passed both houses:

Helping Small Businesses Innovate: Bill S817A, which helps businesses harness expertise in research and development by creating a new "Innovation Vouchers" program with matching grants of up to \$50,000. We also approved Bill S1120, which provides grants up to \$100,000 to support innovative energy and environmental tech development.

Regulatory Reform: Bill S5719, which requires agencies proposing new rules impacting small businesses and local governments to give due consideration to the practical, legal, and economic or fiscal impacts they may cause.

Strategic Investment in Job Training: Bill S6536, which would create the Strategic Investment in Workforce Development Program to identify: the training needs of employers, employees and prospective employees; areas of the state or specific industries where a shortage of a skilled workforce is impacting the ability to remain competitive; methods to train and employ youth workers; and ways to serve prospective employees that are currently unemployed or underemployed.

LANDMARK WORKERS' COMPENSATION REFORMS

Reducing Costs to Help Create Jobs

For far too long, high workers' compensation costs have made it challenging to do business in New York State. These costs have hurt small businesses statewide, placing an enormous drag on our overall economy and costing us thousands of jobs.

That's why the Senate Republican Conference made the enactment of major workers' compensation reforms a top priority in the 2017 Legislative Session. And due to the strong and consistent advocacy of our Senators, we were able to successfully enact an important new law that will update, modernize and improve New York's workers' compensation system.

The new law, which has been lauded by leading business advocacy groups like the Business Council of New York State, will deliver meaningful savings to employers this year in the form of rebates, and hundreds of millions of dollars more in ongoing annual savings on premium costs once the reforms are fully implemented. In fact, shortly after the enactment of the new law, the New York Compensation Insurance Rating Board announced that it would be asking the State Department of Financial Services to reduce rates by 4.5 percent, a step that will save businesses hundreds of millions of dollars, spur new job growth and make our state more affordable for small businesses, not-for-profits and municipalities alike. Specific highlights of the new law include the following:

Savings for Employers:

- Modified Temporary Benefit Timeframes
- Updated, Modernized Medical Impairment Guidelines
- A New, Cost-Effective Prescription Drug Formulary
- Rebates for Current Year's Premiums

Increased Protections for Injured Employees:

- Expanded Safety Net for Those Most Seriously Injured
- "Safety Valve" Ability to Apply for Temporary Benefits
- Common-Sense Reform of Permanent Benefit Requirements



INVESTING IN NEW YORK'S INFRASTRUCTURE

The Senate Republican Conference helped keep New Yorkers moving forward during the 2017 Legislative Session by supporting major new investments in our state's highways, roads and bridges, as well as through other transportation infrastructure projects to create new jobs and spark economic activity. Through our efforts, **overall funding for transportation infrastructure was increased by \$1.7 billion over last year**. Specifics include:

- Fair, Regionally Balanced Funding: Due to the insistence of the Senate Republican Conference, the budget once again maintained fairness in funding and a more equitable and regionally balanced transportation plan. Totaling \$29 billion, this multi-year plan ensures critical infrastructure projects in communities across our state receive the funding they need.
- **PAVE-NY/BRIDGE-NY:** \$1.05 billion is dedicated to local roads and bridges over the next five years, including \$500 million (\$100 million per year) for local PAVE-NY projects, distributed based on the CHIPS formula, and an additional \$550 million for BRIDGE-NY for local bridge projects, with \$70 million earmarked for culverts.
- **CHIPS:** \$503 million (and \$2.4 billion over the next five years) was designated this year for the Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) for 2017-18, including an additional \$65 million for extreme winter recovery, to help local governments proceed with important local infrastructure repairs.
- **Other Modes:** Over \$1 billion for the following: \$417 million for Upstate and non-MTA Downstate transit systems; \$352 million for rail freight; and \$292 million for aviation.



BUY AMERICAN: INVESTING IN AMERICA'S FUTURE

America has a long and proud tradition as one of the world's leading centers of industry and manufacturing, but challenging trade policies and global market forces have taken their toll in recent decades.

This year we voted to enact a new "Buy American" measure that will provide a major boost to U.S.-based companies. Going forward, major state government entities such as the Department of Transportation, the Thruway Authority and the MTA will be required to give preference to American-made steel and iron products.

The Senate Republican Conference is proud to be making this major new investment in American-made products, and prouder still to support the hardworking men and women of New York's outstanding manufacturing sector.



JOB TRAINING: EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL NEW YORKERS

All New Yorkers deserve the opportunity to pursue a good job and rewarding career path. The Senate Republican Conference is consistently focused on making that a reality. This year, we approved key investments in job training and workforce development initiatives, helping New Yorkers enhance their job skills and find a pathway for new opportunities, financial security and career success. **During the 2017 Legislative Session, we voted to deliver record funding of \$260 million for a series of job training and workforce development initiatives, nearly all of which were advocated for by the Senate's Task Force on Workforce Development. Highlights include:**

- Tax Credits for Employers, including \$40 million for a five-year extension of the New York Youth Jobs Program; \$10 million for the Empire State Apprenticeship Tax Credit Program; \$5 million for the Employee Training Incentive Program, which also expands the program to include incumbent worker training and training for employees of life science companies;
- More than \$160 million for education initiatives, including: helping individuals obtain high school diplomas; the Consortium for Workforce Education; Teachers of Tomorrow; Teacher Resource and Computer Training Centers; the Computer Science Master Teacher Program; and professional development resources;
- Nearly \$4 million for Workforce Development Institute (WDI) – a highly successful not-for-profit that works with businesses and the AFL-CIO to provide focused training of workers and for workforce transition support to help stop

the outsourcing of jobs to other states – and \$3 million for the WDI Manufacturing Initiative;

- Support for CUNY workforce development, including \$2 million for the CUNY Apprentice program, and \$2 million for the Job Linkage program to provide certificate programs and increase job placement rates;
- Support for SUNY workforce development, including \$3 million for the SUNY Apprentice Program, \$3 million for Job Linkage, and a \$1.5 million increase secured by the Senate for Small Business Development Centers (total: \$3.5 million); and
- Significant funding for the Building Trades Pre-Apprenticeship Program, the Logger Job Training Program, long-term care training, the Displaced Homemaker Program, youth-related initiatives, Beginning Farmers and programs for unemployed veterans.



A CLEANER ENVIRONMENT

From the high peaks of the Adirondacks to Long Island Sound, New York State is home to a breathtaking, diverse natural environment. Our environment is more than just a fundamental part of our shared quality of life, it's a treasure worth protecting for generations to come. This Legislative Session reflected the Senate Republican Conference's strong commitment to protecting and preserving New York's tremendous environmental resources.

Vital Clean Water Initiatives: The Senate Republican Conference fought for and delivered a record investment of \$2.5 billion in clean water projects statewide.

Record EPF Funding: We approved \$300 million for the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) – the highest level in the program's history. The EPF is crucial in helping the state address critical environmental concerns that range from clean air and water programs to farmland protection and open space preservation.

Parks and Recreation: The Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) is the guardian of New York's valuable natural, historic and cultural resources and oversees a network of 180 state parks and 35 historic sites. This year's budget provided more than \$122.5 million in funding to ensure that we protect, preserve and enhance our state parks and historic sites for the benefit of all New Yorkers.



TAKING ACTION ON FLOOD RELIEF

Time and again, our history has shown that when New Yorkers pull together, there is no crisis we can't overcome.

In response to the major and ongoing flooding that has wreaked havoc throughout much so much of our state this year, the Senate Republican Conference has taken the lead in fighting for much-needed relief.

First, we passed Bill S5902 in May to accelerate emergency access to flood relief, mitigation and recovery funding for impacted communities.

And now we've also passed a more comprehensive measure providing tens of millions of dollars in additional funding that can be used to help homeowners, small businesses and municipalities that have been impacted.

HELPING NEW YORK'S SENIORS New York's seniors have made indelible contributions to our local communities, and the Senate Republican Conference is committed to ensuring that they receive all the support they need to lead healthy, secure, and fulfilling lives. The 2017 Legislative Session reaffirmed our commitment to our state's seniors by:

- **Fully Funding EPIC:** This year's budget fully funded the vital Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) program at \$133 million to cover the prescription drug needs of our seniors.
- **Delivering Property Tax Relief:** The budget fully funds the state's essential Enhanced STAR school tax relief program for seniors.
- **Providing More Support for Senior Initiatives:** The budget boosted funding for a wide array of programs and initiatives that serve seniors, including funding for the following:
 - \$125 million for the development or rehabilitation of affordable housing targeted to low-income New Yorkers aged 60 and above.
 - \$50 million for the Expanded In-home Services for the Elderly Program;
 - \$30 million for Community Services for the Elderly Program;
 - \$27 million for the Wellness in Nutrition Program;
 - \$27 million for Alzheimer's & other dementia related programs;
 - \$250,000 for Older Adults Technology Services;
 - \$86,000 for the New York Foundation for Seniors Home Sharing and Respite; and
 - \$32,000 for the Senior Action Council Hotline.
- **Stopping Elder Abuse:** New York's longstanding commitment to protecting vulnerable senior citizens from abuse continues in this year's budget by providing \$1.2 million to support elder abuse prevention initiatives.
- **Creating a Hotline for Reporting Abuse of Vulnerable Adults:** Senate bill S2154A establishes a statewide, toll-free hotline to receive reports of various forms of abuse regarding vulnerable adults, including seniors. The hotline shall be operational 24 hours a day, seven days a week. (Passed both houses.)

A HEALTHIER NEW YORK

DR T DANKWORTH

The Senate Republican Conference helped keep millions of New Yorkers healthy this year by providing major funding for an array of critically important health care services. In addition to investing billions of dollars to ensure quality hospitals and nursing homes throughout the state, the Senate boosted support for programs that promote good health for all residents, including:

- \$24 million for cancer services;
- \$12 million for chronic disease prevention (including diabetes, asthma & hypertension);
- \$27 million for Alzheimer's and other dementia related programs;
- \$8.5 million in additional funding for the Spinal Cord Injury Research Board;
- \$9 million for the Doctors Across New York Program; and
- \$1.3 million to support organ donation.

The Senate also took action to approve the following measures, which passed both houses:

Strengthen the Clean Indoor Air Act: Bill S2543 would bring e-cigarettes into compliance with the Clean Indoor Air Act, effectively banning their use in most restaurants, bars and workplaces.

Enact the Crohn's & Colitis Fairness Act: Bill S3295 ensures access to employee-only toilet facilities for those who have an eligible medical condition, such as Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis.

Increase Awareness, Prevention & Education on Sepsis: Bill S4971A directs the State Departments of Education and Health to establish a sepsis awareness and prevention program to educate students, parents and school personnel on this infectious, life-threatening condition.

Ensure Newborn Health: Bill S3867 establishes the "newborn health and safe sleep pilot program" in areas of the state with high infant mortality rates or poor birth outcomes. The measure will ensure that infants have a safe place to sleep, as well as provide new parents with information on safe sleeping practices for infants.



SUPPORTING KEY INVESTMENTS IN WOMEN'S HEALTH

From enacting last year's landmark paid family leave package, to approving the historic Women's Equality Package that ensured equal pay for women, the Senate Republican Conference has had a longstanding commitment to making New York a place where women can thrive. This year, in addition to expanding the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, we ensured that women throughout New York have access to the quality medical care and essential services they need to live healthy lives. Specific highlights include:

- \$26.255 million for Nutrition Services, which include education for pregnant women, infants, children, and prenatal assistance
- \$8.505 million for the Comprehensive Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program
- \$8.2 million for Rape Crisis Centers
- \$2.580 million for Breast Cancer Research and Education
- \$1.847 million for the Universal Prenatal and Postpartum Home Visitation Program
- \$1.835 million for the Prenatal Care Assistance Program
- \$283,000 for the Adelphi University Breast Cancer Support Program in New York State

- \$417,000 for the Maternity and Early Childhood Foundation, Inc.
- \$1.178 million for the Comprehensive Care Centers for Eating Disorders
- \$100,000 for Women's Cancer Prevention and Education
- \$50,000 for the New York State Breast Cancer Network
- \$28,000 for the Safe Motherhood Initiative to Prevent Maternal Deaths in New York State
- \$25,000 for Maternal Mortality Review
- \$15,000 for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome
- A measure authorizing Medicaid coverage for donor breast milk to help premature infants in NICUs who are facing complications.

The Senate also took action to approve the following measures:

Expanding Cancer Patients' Rights: Allows patients to pursue malpractice claims if they were unaware of malignant tumor or cancer. **Help Prevent Breast Cancer with 3-D Mammography:** Bill S4150 would require 3-D mammography, a more consistent and dependable way of detecting breast cancer, to be covered by insurance companies. Under this bill, insurers would be responsible for providing this type of coverage in an effort to identify breast cancer earlier and potentially save lives. (Passed both houses.)



The Senate Republican Conference worked throughout the 2017 Legislative Session to approve a number of important measures designed to provide help and support to New Yorkers with mental, physical and developmental challenges. The following measures have now been approved by both houses of the Legislature, and will be sent to the Governor for final approval:

- Ensuring a Continuity of Care for People with Developmental Disabilities: Bill S5681 codifies the Care Demonstration Program -- a successful program that provides vital support to individuals who may not need residential care but are still in need of community-based programs.
- **Keeping Kendra's Law:** Bill 6726 ensures that this law remains on the books by providing for court-ordered assisted outpatient treatment for certain people with mental illness who could pose a risk to themselves and others.
- Helping Individuals With Disabilities Manage Medical Costs: Bill S1241 requires new Medicaid enrollees to be notified of a Pooled Trust option to help manage medical and living expenses. This option allows individuals with disabilities to deposit excess income into a trust so that they can continue to afford crucial medical supplies and services through Medicaid, maintain an income for living expenses and independence, and save the state money by reducing the need to be placed in a nursing facility.
- **Removing the Stigma from Mental Illness:** Bill S1210C would direct the Office of Mental Health to create a "Mental Health Matters" license plate available for purchase from the state, which would use the proceeds to create a mental illness anti-stigma fund that provides grants to organizations dedicated to eliminating the stigma attached to mental illness.
- Improving the Coordination of Care for Special Education Students: Bill S1692 would help provide transitional services for special education students after aging out of tuition free educational services.
- Maintaining the Western New York Children's Psychiatric Center as a Separate and Distinct Entity: Bill S4630 prohibits the Western New York Children's Psychiatric Center from being co-located or merged with any other facility. Aside from the health facility having been constantly rated top tier by the Joint Commission on Accredited Health Care, its rural and environmentally friendly location has been therapeutic for children with mental health disorders.



COMBATING LYME AND TICK-BORNE DISEASES

The Northeastern United States continues to be one of our nation's hardest-hit regions when it comes to Lyme and other tick-borne diseases, but the New York State Senate continues its efforts to combat these serious maladies.

The Senate Task Force on Lyme Disease and Tick-Borne Diseases was established to better address this issue, and it continues working to overcome the challenges presented by these debilitating, potentially deadly, afflictions.

To give added protection to our young people who are outside more frequently and for longer periods of time, the Senate gave final passage to a bill (S6710A) that allows parents to give permission for children's overnight, summer day and summer traveling camps to administer insect repellent to help decrease the risk of Lyme and other tick-borne infections.

In addition to increasing public awareness about the dangers of Lyme and other tick-borne diseases, the Task Force successfully fought to include \$400,000 in this year's budget to boost research, education and prevention efforts.

KEEPING NEW YORKERS SAFE Supporting law enforcement and keeping our communities safe from harm has long been a critical priority for the Senate Republican Conference. Throughout the 2017 Session we reaffirmed that commitment in the following ways:

- **Keeping Kendra's Law:** Bill 6726 ensures that this law remains on the books by providing for court-ordered assisted outpatient treatment for certain people with mental illness who could pose a risk to themselves and others.
- **Ensuring Public Safety:** Governor Cuomo and the Assembly originally supported a "raise the age" proposal that had very serious public safety ramifications. We worked to ensure that perpetrators of violent crimes, sex crimes and other major offenses still go through the criminal court system. We also worked to minimize the potential cost and logistical problems of the proposal.
- **Domestic Violence:** \$2.2 million in funding was allocated to provide support, protection and services to domestic violence victims.
- Rape/Sexual Assault: Rape crisis centers received \$8.2 million to help victims of rape and sexual assault.
- Hate Crimes Task Force: The State Budget provided \$1 million to the New York State Police for the establishment of a new Hate Crimes Task Force.
- Helping Crime Victims: A new measure that increases reimbursable expenses to certain vulnerable crime victims, including those who are elderly, incompetent, or physically disabled was passed this year, as well.
- **Combating Gang Violence:** The Senate passed comprehensive legislation designed to combat MS-13 and other gangs that are committing terrible acts of violence. (Assembly action still required.)
- Cyber-Security: Bill S5946 creates a cyber-security action plan for New York State. (Assembly action still required.)
- Terrorism: Bill S3450 creates a new terrorist registry for convicted terrorists. (Assembly action still required.)



PROTECTING CHILDREN, SENIORS AND VULNERABLE NEW YORKERS FROM EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE

The Senate Republican Conference passed a wide array of bills protecting minors, domestic violence victims, and vulnerable New Yorkers from abuse. The following three bills have passed both houses:

- **Preventing the Overburdening of Child Protective Service Employees:** Bill S3146 protects vulnerable children by establishing new workload standards for child protective services workers.
- Improving Coordination in Preventing Domestic Violence: Bill S5394A adds the State Police and Office of Victim Services as new members to the state's Domestic Violence Fatality Review team.
- **Creating a Hotline for Reporting Abuse of Vulnerable Adults:** Bill S2154A creates a toll-free hotline to receive reports of various forms of abuse regarding vulnerable adults, including seniors.

In addition, while we passed the following bills easily, the Assembly has still failed to take action on these important measures:

- Bill S2619, strengthening the charge of Endangering the Welfare of a Child from a misdemeanor to a felony offense;
- Bill S1445, protecting victims of sexual violence from the potential of repeat attacks by increasing their privacy protections;
- Bill S883A, making the murder of a child under 12 a First Degree Offense;
- Bill S4311, expanding protections to employees of domestic violence shelters or those seeking their services;
- Bill S2595, cracking down on people who harbor sex offenders;
- Bill S3030, keeping sex offenders away from children;
- Bill S1009, prohibiting level 3 sex offenders from living in college housing;
- Bill S2630, increasing penalties for filing a false missing children report;
- Bill S296, requiring level 3 sex offenders convicted of violent crimes against children to wear an electronic monitoring device for life;
- Bill S5321, prohibiting level 2 or 3 sex offenders whose offense was committed against a minor from using the Internet;
- Bill S399, keeping better track of sex offenders in residence;
- Bill S716, taking pedophiles off the street by strengthening sentencing;
- Bill S3861, making our subways and other public transportation safer with new penalties for lewd behavior and aggravated sexual contact;
- Bill S2725A, outlawing "revenge porn"; and Bill S457, shielding people targeted by pornographic defamation.



HONORING OUR HEROES

The Senate Republican Conference's unwavering support for the heroic service men and women who have sacrificed so much on behalf of our nation was once again displayed this year, with funding approved for the following important programs:

- \$3.1 million for the Joseph P. Dwyer Veteran Peer-to-Peer Program;
- \$1 million in new funding for veteran-to-veteran programs run by Veterans Service Organizations;
- \$500,000 for the NYS Defenders Association Veterans 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;
- \$50,000 for the Vietnam Veterans of America New York State Council;
- \$200,000 for Helmets-to-Hardhats;
- \$25,000 for the Veterans Miracle Center; and
- \$120,000 for Veterans of Foreign Wars NYS Chapter Field Service Operations.

The Senate also took action to approve the following measures, which passed both houses:

- Venerating POW/MIAs at the State Capitol: Bill S5540 directs the Commissioner of General Services to place a POW/MIA chair and plaque in the State Capitol to honor United States prisoners of war and those still missing in action. The POW/MIA Chair of Honor would be a simple yet powerful symbol to honor the 91,000 who remain unaccounted for, and remain forever empty as a reminder to all.
- Authorizing Distinctive License Plates for Conspicuous Service Cross Recipients: Bill S2564C authorizes the Department of Motor Vehicles to issue distinctive license plates to recognize recipients of the New York State Conspicuous Service Cross or their spouse. Conspicuous Service Cross recipients are combat veterans who served with valor, many of whom were wounded in battle while defending our country. This measure would allow these individuals to receive recognition.



MAJOR SUPPORT FOR OUR FARMING FAMILIES

New York's agricultural industry is the backbone of our state, with 35,000 farms supporting a workforce of more than 100,000 men and women. The wealth of fresh, quality food and farm products grown in New York is essential to not only providing our families with healthy food, but it's a must for our economy. This year, the Senate Republican Conference again succeeded in restoring nearly \$10 million (for a total of \$51 million) to fund initiatives not included in the Executive Budget, giving New York farmers a crucial leg up on other states' agribusinesses. Dozens of programs — investments in cutting-edge agricultural research support for the next generation of family farmers, environmental stewardship, and protections for plant, animal, and public health —are funded, with significant increases including:

- \$1.5 million (for a total of \$1.9 million) for the Farm Viability Institute to help New York's farmers improve the long-term economic viability and sustainability of farms and the communities which they serve;
- \$1 million (for a total of \$5.4 million) for the Cornell Diagnostic Lab;
- \$816,000 (for a total of \$1.2 million) for FarmNet, Farm Family Assistance;
- \$378,000 (for a total of \$1.2 million) for Pro Dairy; and
- \$300,000 (for a total of \$842,000) to expand Future Farmers of America.

The Senate also took action to approve the following measures, which passed both houses:

- Helping Provide Predictability for Agritourism Proprietors and Consumers: Bill S1152A would establish new standards to be observed by agritourism business operators and their customers. With the current lack of standards, the cost of liability insurance for farms with agritourism activities is becoming prohibitive, particularly for small farms, making business planning difficult.
- Allowing More Farmers to Qualify for the Farmer's School Tax Credit (FSTC): Bill S2899 would allow farmers who
 rent land from a trust, to which they are a beneficiary, to claim the Farmer's School Tax Credit. This legislation would ensure
 that these family farms continue a legacy of good business and provide future generations with the opportunities that
 previous ones had.



REFORMING AND IMPROVING OUR GOVERNMENT

Public service is a great privilege, and all of our elected officials should be held to the highest standards of conduct.

That's why the Senate Republican Conference voted to approve a proposed constitutional amendment that would strip taxpayer-funded pensions away from corrupt politicians and government officials who are convicted of certain crimes. This proposed amendment will now appear on the ballot this November, enabling voters all across the state to make their voices heard on this important issue.

New Yorkers deserve a government that is open, transparent and accountable. Now, after years of advocacy from the Senate Republican Conference, our residents are empowered to make that a reality.

PROTECTING ANIMALS FROM NEGLECT AND ABUSE

Pets are more than just animals; they're part of our families. And like all members of a family, the Senate Republican Conference is committed to protecting them from abuse. **This year, we passed the first-of-its-kind Companion Animal Capital Fund, which received \$5 million in this year's budget to provide humane societies, nonprofits, and municipal shelters with grants for capital projects through a competitive application process.** In addition, the Senate passed an extensive array of bills designed to protect animals. As we look ahead, we will continue to encourage the State Assembly to take action on these measures as well:

- Bill S2501, prohibiting a person convicted of "Buster's Law" from owning or possessing a companion animal unless authorized by court order;
- Bill S299, increasing the penalty for multiple convictions of animal cruelty;
- Bill S302, requiring more inspections for pet dealers;
- Bill S1432, criminalizing bringing a minor to an exhibition of animal fighting;
- Bill S594, designating animal fighting as an enterprisecrime-eligible offense;
- Bill S611, expanding tools available to stop animal fighting;
- Bill S5599, closing loopholes in the regulation of pet dealers and shelters;
- Bill S2937, preventing animal abusers from working at animal shelters;
- Bill S5515, improving shelter care for dogs;

- Bill S6565, examining the need for standards for the designation of therapy dogs;
- Bill S177B, reducing holding time for the adoption of stray cats;
- Bill S1137, increasing the fine for abandoning an animal;
- Bill S2900, clarifying regulations for dogs engaged in hunting or training;
- Bill S5938A, establishing an income tax credit for owners of service dogs;
- Bill S1712, increasing certain penalties for violating the prohibition of animal fighting and for aggravated cruelty to animals;
- Bill S1680, Kirby & Quigley's Law, expanding the definition of aggravated cruelty to animals to include harm to companion animals during the commission of a felony;
- Bill S2167, extending orders of protection to pets of victims of domestic abuse; and
- Bill S839, exempting dog license fees for deployed active military members' dogs.



IMPORTANT LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

This year, the Senate Republican Conference helped pass a wide array of important measures designed to improve the quality of life for all New Yorkers. These include the following measures, passed by both houses, which will:

- End child marriage by making the minimum age of consent 17, with parental and judicial approval: Bill S4407B
- Provide a Tax Credit for Universal Visitability Designed Homes for Seniors and Others with Limited Mobility: Bill S2411A
- Increase Transparency and Accountability at the MTA: Bill S5159
- Enhance Public Access to Regulatory Documents: Bill S5721
- Cut Red Tape to Buying Sparklers in New York: Bill S724A
- Establish the Temporary Advisory Board on Upstate Transit Funding: Bill 2083A
- Help Geothermal Energy Flourish in New York: Bill S688
- Promote the Adoption of Special Needs Children: Bill S4492
- Continue the Foster Family Care Demonstration Program: Bill S6081
- Give victims of violent crime the right to be heard before their perpetrators are up for parole: Bill S6406
- Extend the Masters-in Education Teacher Scholarship Program to students at private universities: Bill S2482C
- Expand health benefits for volunteer firefighters who contract certain cancers as a result of workplace hazards: Bill S1411B
- Establish the Energy Storage Deployment Program: Bill S5190
- Authorize local governments and school districts the option to continue property tax exemptions for Cold War veterans: Bill S5659A
- Establish the NY State First Home Savings Program: Bill S4058B

PREVENTING BAD LEGISLATION FROM BECOMING LAW

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In addition to the solid, sensible pieces of legislation the Senate Republican Conference helped pass this year, we also helped prevent a wide array of misguided proposals and bad bills from becoming law. These include:

- Stopping a radical plan to use up to \$200 million in taxpayer dollars to pay for political campaigns;
- Rejecting \$400 million in new taxes and fees proposed in the Governor's budget, including \$100 million in new DMV fees and a new \$136 million tax on purchases that New Yorkers make on the Internet;
- Blocking legislation granting illegal immigrants the right to vote, serve on juries, and run for public office;
- Stopping a bill providing free, taxpayer-funded college tuition to illegal immigrants;
- Preventing action on numerous bills targeting gun owners and infringing on our 2nd Amendment rights;
- Stopping a burdensome new tax on millions of New Yorkers who use paper and plastic grocery bags; and
- Eliminating a budget proposal that would have capped STAR savings -- a step that would have cost local taxpayers an estimated \$50 million this year and nearly \$700 million over five years.

THE 2017 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

THE NYS SENATE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE