



## Senator Toby Ann Stavisky Lauds the Passage of the 2021-2022 State Budget

*Senator Stavisky: This year's budget had a specific theme: building a stronger and more equitable New York. That is what we've provided in this historic budget. With help from the Biden administration, we are able to directly assist my constituents by putting money in their pockets.*

**Queens, NY-** On Monday, April 12th, Senator Toby Ann Stavisky, (D-16th SD) met via zoom with reporters to discuss the 2021-22 Fiscal Year Budget, designed to help New Yorkers rebound from the damaging toll of the COVID-19 pandemic. "This was 'The Year of the Legislature' which finally produced a budget that invests in our economy, in education, our infrastructure and so much more. We saw a dramatic shift of power," **Senator Stavisky said.** This budget provides necessary funding to support ailing small business owners and those struggling to keep their homes and afford health care. It also looks towards New York's future by heavily investing in our education system, which Senator Stavisky, who chairs the Senate Higher Education Committee, fought particularly hard for.

"If you are parent, your school will be getting more funding," **explained Senator Stavisky.** "If you are a college student, tuition will not be increased. If you are a working immigrant who wasn't able to get unemployment insurance, help is on the way. If you lost your job or couldn't work because of COVID, your rent will be subsidized so you can stay in your home. If you are a senior who depends on Medicaid, we saved \$400 million from being cut. If you're a struggling small business owner, this budget lets us invest in you.

In Higher Education, I am proud of the historic funding we were able to secure for our students and colleges. In this budget we were able to freeze tuition for SUNY and CUNY students. We are also increasing the Tuition Assistance Program by \$500, the largest increase in 20 years."

Below are some additional highlights of the 2021-22 State Budget:

### Education

- **\$29.5 Billion in School Aid:** provides \$29.5 billion in State funding to local schools, an increase of \$3.0 billion (11.3%) from last year, including a \$1.4 billion (7.6%) Foundation Aid increase.

### Higher Education

- **\$7.7 Billion for Higher Education:** an increase of \$283 million, or 3.8%, from FY 2021. Also provides over \$1 billion in new capital funding to SUNY and CUNY.
- **Increase Maximum TAP Award by \$500:** \$88 million to raise the maximum TAP award from \$5,165 to \$5,665, for approximately 185,000 New York residents attending college in NYS.
- **Enact a TAP Gap Funding Plan:** four-year plan to fund the gap between TAP and tuition that is covered by SUNY and CUNY tuition credits. The plan increases State support to fully cover an estimated \$158 million in annual TAP tuition credits by the 2024-25 academic year.
- **Increase Aid to Community Colleges:** increases aid from \$2,947 to \$3,197 per student and includes a funding floor at 98% of the prior year's formula. These changes provide an additional \$25 million in State support for over 200,000 community college students.

## Health Care

- **Enhancing Nursing Home Quality of Care:** ensures facilities prioritize patient care over profits. These reforms establish minimum thresholds for nursing home spending of 70% of revenues on direct care and 40% of revenues on resident-facing staffing, capping profits at five percent.
- **Improving Data Collection Efforts for the Public Health Needs of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans (APIA):** The information collected as part of this Data Disaggregation program will be used to identify health care needs of the APIA population and address shortfalls in the State's healthcare system in effectively serving these portions of the population.

## Housing

- **Affordable Housing Capital Plan:** \$20 billion, comprehensive five-year investment to create or preserve over 100,000 units of affordable housing and create 6,000 new units of supportive housing.
- **Provide \$2.4 Billion to Protect Renters:** \$2.4 billion Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) to ensure New Yorkers can make rent and remain stable in their homes. Renters in the program will be eligible to receive relief for back rent and utility arrears.
- **Public Housing Remediation:** \$325 million in capital appropriation for critical maintenance including weatherization, heating repairs, elevators, and lead remediation for public housing.

## Transportation & Infrastructure

- **Record Department of Transportation Capital Plan:** \$6.2 billion for the second year of a record \$12.3 billion, 2-Year DOT Capital Plan will facilitate the improvement of highways, bridges, rail, aviation infrastructure, non-MTA transit and DOT facilities. this is an increase of \$3.4 billion, or 38 percent.
- **\$1 Billion for Strengthening Local Highways and Bridges:** funds the Consolidated Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) increases by \$100 million to \$577.8 million. Funds the Extreme Winter Recovery Program, the PAVE NY program and maintains funding of local bridge projects through the BRIDGE NY program at \$100 million. This represents an overall year-to-year increase of \$285 million.

## Addressing Systemic Injustices

- **Affordable Internet for Low-Income Families:** requires internet service providers to offer a \$15 per month high-speed internet plan to low-income households. To further bridge the gap, the State has partnered with Schmidt Futures and the Ford Foundation to launch ConnectED NY, to provide approximately 50,000 students in economically disadvantaged school districts with free internet access through June 2022.
- **Securing Communities Against Hate Crimes (SCAHC):** \$25 million for security costs to NY's nonpublic schools, community centers and day care facilities at risk of hate crimes or attacks because of their ideology, beliefs or mission.
- **Tackling Food Insecurities:** The FY Enacted Budget adds \$50 million to Nourish NY for a total \$85 million investment to extend the program through 2021.

## Economy

- **\$1 Billion Small Business and Arts Relief and Recovery Assistance:** relief package to help businesses and other organizations recover from the impacts of the pandemic:
    - **Provides \$800 million in grant funding for small businesses** including for-profit arts and cultural institutions impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
    - **New York Restaurant Resiliency Grant Program:** \$25 million in grant funding to support restaurants that provide meals to distressed and under-represented communities.
    - **Restaurant Return-To-Work Tax Credit:** Provides up to \$35 million in tax credits to support restaurants hard hit by the pandemic through 2021.
  - **Continuing Middle Class Tax Cuts:** lowers Personal Income Tax rates for middle-class New Yorkers. In 2021, income tax rates have been lowered from 6.09% to 5.97% for taxpayers filing jointly in the \$43,000-\$161,550 income bracket, and from 6.41% to 6.33% in the \$161,550-\$323,200 income bracket. The Budget also provides a personal income tax credit for NY homeowners with incomes up to \$250,000. The calculation of this credit is capped at \$350 per STAR-eligible household. It is expected that claims will average about \$340.
  - **Support Excluded Workers:** The Enacted Budget creates a \$2.1 billion program to provide cash payments to workers who have suffered income loss due to COVID but who are ineligible for Unemployment Insurance or related Federal benefits due to their immigration status.
  - **Mobile Sports Wagering:** \$500 million in revenue for the State, \$5 million to youth sports, and \$6 million to combat gambling addiction. The remainder will be dedicated to education.
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