

For immediate release
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Senator Toby Ann Stavisky, Chair of the State Senate Higher Education Committee, Speaks with Coalition of Students Regarding Funding for Public Higher Education

Senator Stavisky: As we negotiate a new budget, we must invest in our state higher education system. Our SUNY and CUNY students are the future leaders of New York, and we must do all we can to arm them with the necessary tools to succeed.

Senator Toby Ann Stavisky (D- 16th district) held a virtual meeting with the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) and members of various student organizations to discuss their 2021 Higher Education Platform for students, faculty and staff. During their conversation students highlighted their concerns about a possible increase in tuition and other issues that put a strain on students as a result of the pandemic.

“The students I met with were very informed and articulate regarding the issues facing New York State Higher Education,” **says Senator Stavisky.** “The pandemic has put increased stress on our SUNY and CUNY systems, which were already suffering from inadequate funding. I firmly believe the state needs to invest more into our higher education systems and the students they support.”

During their meeting, Senator Stavisky and the students also discussed how to safely reopen campuses in the wake of the pandemic, what students need in the way of mental health support services and possible ways to expand New York’s opportunity programs. The Senator encouraged all of the students to stay engaged in the process and continue to advocate on behalf of themselves and the SUNY and CUNY systems.