

# New York State Assembly | Sheldon Silver, Speaker



committee on

## Higher Education

Deborah J. Glick, Chair



DEBORAH J. GLICK  
Assemblymember 66<sup>th</sup> District  
New York County

THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

CHAIR  
Higher Education

COMMITTEES  
Environmental Conservation  
Rules  
Ways & Means

December 15, 2009

The Honorable Sheldon Silver, Speaker  
New York State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 349  
Albany, New York 12248

Dear Speaker Silver:

On behalf of the members of the Assembly Committee on Higher Education, I respectfully submit to you the Committee's 2009 Annual Report which highlights our activities over the past year.

The 2009 Legislative Session was a productive one. The 2009-10 Legislative budget for higher education provided \$145.5 million in additional funding above the Executive proposal. The Legislature increased Operating Aid for SUNY State Operated colleges above the Executive proposal by \$22.7 and by \$20.0 million for CUNY Senior colleges, and restored the Executive's \$49.0 million proposed cuts to community college base aid, returning funding levels from \$2,405 per full-time equivalent (FTE) to \$2,675 per FTE for SUNY and CUNY community colleges. The Legislature also rejected cuts to university-wide programs totaling \$22.7 million for SUNY and \$20 million for CUNY in restorations. These programs include High Needs Nursing, the Empire State Diversity Honors Scholarship Program and the Academic Equipment Replacement Program.

This year, the Legislature restored \$49.9 million to the TAP program. The Legislature rejected a \$31 million reduction to pro-rate TAP awards based on credit hours; rejected a \$6.5 million reduction for increased academic standards and credit minimums; rejected a \$5.7 million cut in TAP award discounts for families with multiple children; rejected a \$3.7 million cut to the TAP program that would have prohibited students in default on their Federal student loans not guaranteed by HESC to continue to receive TAP; and rejected a \$3.0 million cut for TAP awards for graduate students. The Legislature accepted the Executive's proposal to include public pension income in TAP award calculations (\$15 million savings). The Legislature also restored a \$25 million State subsidy to support SUNY hospitals,

restored \$3.6 million to CSTEP and provided that the State will fully cover the costs of capital projects at Medgar Evers College prospectively hereafter.

Following the enacted 2009-10 budget, and in order to help close a budget gap, additional cuts were proposed by the Executive and taken up by the Legislature in a November 2009 extraordinary session. These cuts included a reduction in every student's TAP award by \$120 or by the actual award when it is less than \$120 (starting with the 2009-10 academic year, and for each academic year thereafter) and a \$22.6 million cut to community college base aid. The Legislature rejected all TAP cuts and reduced the cut to community college base aid by 50% (\$11.3 million).

The Committee's efforts were not limited to fiscal concerns. In fact, the 2009 Legislative Session addressed several pressing issues that reflect the varied priorities of the Higher Education Committee. The Committee reported legislation that would have changed the TAP income schedule for students who are classified as having unusual and exceptional family circumstances from the independent schedule to the dependent schedule. The Legislature passed legislation, that was ultimately vetoed, that would have allowed student recipients of TAP to apply for mid-year adjustments to reflect a change in financial status of the student, the student's spouse or the student's parents under circumstances that include: catastrophic illness, permanent or total physical or mental disability, death, permanent or total disability, a call to active military duty, divorce or separation. In addition, new laws were enacted, including: updating the practice of accountancy; eliminating limited permits for dental residents; and requiring each college or university's advisory committee on campus safety to educate the campus community, including security personnel and individuals who advise or supervise students, about domestic violence and stalking offenses and how to report such incidents.

As you can see, much has been accomplished this year, but much still remains to be done. Thank you for your leadership and steadfast support of our State's higher education community. I am proud of my third year as Chair of the Higher Education Committee and thank you for the opportunity to continue working with you and my colleagues toward our shared goal of ensuring that our system of public and private higher education remains the best in the nation.

Sincerely,



Deborah J. Glick

Chair

Higher Education Committee

**2009 ANNUAL REPORT**

**NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION**

**Deborah J. Glick, Chair**

**Committee Members**

**Majority**

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Richard N. Gottfried  
Joseph D. Morelle  
William Magee  
Steve Englebright  
Kevin A. Cahill  
Patricia A. Eddington  
Amy Paulin  
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Jennifer Trowbridge, Senior Analyst  
Brianna Bailey, Committee Assistant  
Suzanne Bolling, Associate Counsel  
Theresa Swidorski, Legislative Director  
Sarah Sorensen, Legislative Analyst  
Joyce Batteredton, Committee Clerk  
Laura Inglis, Program and Counsel Executive Secretary

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## I. COMMITTEE JURISDICTION

The Committee on Higher Education is responsible for the initiation and review of legislation relevant to higher education and the professions in New York State. It is primarily concerned with policy initiatives affecting the State University of New York (SUNY), the City University of New York (CUNY), the independent colleges and universities of New York, proprietary vocational schools, student financial aid, and the licensed professions. However, because of the complex and comprehensive nature of New York's system of higher education, the Committee has also been involved in shaping legislation in such diverse public policy fields as health care, economic and workforce development, technology, capital financing, and elementary and secondary education.

The New York State system of higher education has been heralded for decades for its quality and comprehensive service to the public with a full range of academic, professional, and vocational programs. The three components of this system include the State University of New York (SUNY), the City University of New York (CUNY), and the numerous independent colleges and universities, proprietary colleges and schools located within New York State.

In addition to providing support to the state-operated campuses of SUNY and the senior college programs of the City University, New York State contributes financially to community colleges and provides direct aid to independent colleges and universities. The State also demonstrates its commitment to higher education through funding the country's largest state-supported Tuition Assistance Program (TAP).

The Committee on Higher Education also monitors the ongoing activities of the 48 professions, which the State Education Department (SED) is charged with licensing and regulating. Through careful consideration of legislation affecting the professions and through the monitoring of the professional discipline functions of the State Education and Health Departments, the Committee endeavors to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public and to ensure the maintenance of high standards and competence within the professional realm.

This report summarizes the activities and achievements of the Assembly Committee on Higher Education in each of its major areas of responsibility during the 2009 Legislative Session.

## II. HIGHER EDUCATION

### A. Budget Highlights

The 2009-10 Legislative budget for higher education provided \$145.5 million (\$121.2 million SFY) in additional funding above the Executive proposal. The Legislature increased Operating Aid for SUNY State Operated colleges above the Executive proposal by \$22.7 and by \$20.0 million for CUNY Senior colleges, and restored the Executive's \$49.0 million proposed cuts to community college base aid, returning funding levels from \$2,405 per full-time equivalent (FTE) to \$2,675 per FTE for SUNY and CUNY community colleges.

#### 1. *Community Colleges*

This year, the Executive proposal decreased State support for community colleges by \$270 for each FTE student. Base aid is the State's responsibility for its share of community college budgeted costs and is comprised of a \$2,675 payment for each FTE student. The State, the sponsoring locality, and the students are meant to equally share in the operational costs of community college, with all parties paying one-third of the cost. The level of State support that community colleges receive directly affects tuition rates and local contributions. Recognizing the importance of the State's support of community colleges, the Legislature restored academic year funding of \$35.3 million for SUNY and \$13.7 million for CUNY community college base aid. This restoration of funding keeps the State's share of community college financing to \$2,675 per FTE student as compared to the \$2,405 recommended by the Governor in his budget proposal.

#### 2. *SUNY State Operated Colleges and CUNY Senior Colleges*

Expanding access to public universities continues to be a high priority for the Assembly Higher Education Committee. The Legislature was instrumental in restoring proposed cuts in operating aid of \$20.0 million for CUNY to counteract significant cuts to the University's master plan initiatives and \$22.7 million for SUNY to reduce the significant financial impact additional cuts place upon the system in the upcoming year. The Legislature accepted the Governor's proposed tuition increase with 20% of the revenue remaining at SUNY (\$33.02 million) and CUNY (\$22.02 million). Tuition for in-state undergraduate students, starting the fall of 2009, is \$4,970 at SUNY and \$4,600 at CUNY.

The Legislature rejected cuts to university-wide programs totaling \$22.7 million for SUNY and \$20 million for CUNY through restorations. These programs include High Needs Nursing, the Empire State Diversity Honors Scholarship Program and the Academic Equipment Replacement Program. The Legislature also restored a \$25 million State subsidy to support SUNY hospitals, restored \$3.6 million to CSTEP and further provided that the State will fully cover the costs of capital projects at Medgar Evers College prospectively hereafter.

### ***3. Independent Colleges and Universities***

New York State is fortunate to have the most diversified and largest independent sector of higher education in the nation. According to the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities (CICU), in 2009 twenty-eight percent of the students enrolled in the independent sector in New York State were minorities. The independent colleges and universities of the State enroll over 464,000 students. New York not only boasts the nation's largest private university, New York University, it also prides itself on numerous outstanding small colleges as well.

In many instances across the State, a college or university is the major employer in the community. Therefore, a strong independent sector of higher education helps the New York economy in several respects: through educating its workforce, as an employer, and through the ancillary services in the community that cater to the student and staff population. Independent campuses throughout New York State have a collective annual economic impact of \$47.5 billion, employ 372,000 New Yorkers and have a \$17.5 billion payroll.

#### **Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP)**

This year, the Legislature maintained funding to the program in the amount of \$23.8 million in order to keep its commitment to help disadvantaged students gain access to private colleges.

#### **Bundy Aid**

Bundy Aid, formally known as Unrestricted Aid to Independent Colleges and Universities, provides direct support to higher education institutions based on the number and type of degrees conferred by the college or university. The Legislature accepted the Executive's proposal of a \$2.6 million reduction in funding for Bundy Aid.



#### *4. Financial Aid*

##### **Tuition Assistance Program**

New York State is fortunate to have the most comprehensive system of financial aid in the United States. At the forefront is the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP), New York's largest grant program which helps eligible New York residents pay tuition at approved schools in New York State. Award amounts are determined by net taxable income (up to \$80,000) and financial status (independent or dependent). Depending on income, TAP awards can range from \$500 to \$5,000 with low-income students receiving larger awards. The TAP program helps keep college accessible and affordable for students who would otherwise not be able to attend.

The Assembly Higher Education Committee is committed to keeping college affordable for students. This year, the Legislature restored \$49.9 million to the TAP program. The Legislature rejected a \$31 million reduction to pro-rate TAP awards based on credit hours; rejected a \$6.5 million reduction for increased academic standards and credit minimum; rejected a \$5.7 million cut in TAP award discounts for families with multiple children; rejected a \$3.7 cut to the TAP program that would have prohibited students in default on their Federal student loans not guaranteed by HESC to continue to receive TAP; and rejected a \$3.0 million cut for TAP awards for graduate students. The Legislature accepted the Executive's proposal to include public pension income in TAP award calculations (\$15 million savings).

##### **Scholarships/Loan Forgiveness Programs**

The Legislature accepted the Flight 3407 scholarship program which allows children, spouses and dependents of those who died as a direct result of the Clarence, New York crash to receive scholarships at any New York State college, up to the 4-year cost of attendance at a public college.

##### **New York Higher Education Loan Program (NYHELPS)**

The Legislature approved the creation of the New York Higher Education Loan Programs (NYHELPS) to provide New York State students and their families a lower cost alternative to private loans in order to make up the difference between the cost of college tuition and available State and federal aid. The program is designed to be a partnership between the State, private lenders and higher education institutions to offer both fixed and variable rate loans. NYHELPS will provide, on an annual basis, a minimum of \$350 million in fixed rate loans with individual loans of up to \$10,000 to resident students, who have

an eligible co-signor and are enrolled in a degree-granting program at a New York State college or university. NYHELPS requires that a student exhaust all State, federal (other than Federal PLUS loans) and institutional aid before they can apply for a loan.

### **Access Programs**

Access to higher education opportunities has been a long-standing concern of this Committee. Over the years, the Legislature has created programs which provide special assistance to educationally and economically disadvantaged students, underrepresented groups, and “at-risk” youth – students who require additional support in order to achieve academic success. The Assembly has been committed to ensuring that all students have access to higher education and can enhance their academic success through the support of access programs.

Through counseling, remedial coursework, financial assistance, drop-out prevention, and skills training, these programs are dedicated not only to encouraging enrollment in college, but also helping to ensure success in the postsecondary academic environment. New York’s Access Programs include:

- ❖ The Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) provides critical access programs for educationally and economically disadvantaged students who attend independent institutions of higher education. HEOP programs serve approximately 4,771 students through 59 programs with support programs including pre-freshman summer programs, remedial and developmental courses, tutoring, and counseling.
- ❖ The Education Opportunity Program (EOP) provides academic support and financial aid to approximately 10,187 students who attend public institutions of higher education and show promise for mastering college-level work, but who may otherwise not be admitted. EOP support programs include special tutoring, and academic, career, and personal counseling.
- ❖ The Liberty Partnerships Program (LPP) serves 14,207 middle, junior, and senior high school students who are at risk of dropping out, and assists them in completing high school, preparing for and entering college, and obtaining meaningful employment. The dropout rate among students enrolled in LPP is under 2 percent.

- ❖ The Teacher Opportunity Corps (TOC) has the goal of attracting more African-Americans, Hispanics, and Native Americans to the teaching profession and to prepare these individuals to work effectively with students who are at risk of academic failure and dropping out of school. The TOC is also considered to be a model of excellence for teacher education programs.
- ❖ The Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP) and Collegiate-STEP (CSTEP) was created to encourage the attendance of more students of underrepresented and economically disadvantaged populations by helping these students to enter collegiate study and careers in scientific, technical, and health-related fields.
- ❖ The State provides small awards for Native Americans pursuing post-secondary study in New York. This access program offers financial aid to eligible Native Americans and has been critical in addressing the under representation of this population in New York State's higher education system.

## ***5. Post-Budget Cuts***

Following the enacted 2009-10 budget, and in order to help close a budget gap, additional cuts were proposed by the Executive and taken up by the Legislature in a November 2009 extraordinary session. These cuts included a reduction in every student's TAP award by \$120 or by the actual award when it is less than \$120 (starting with the 2009-10 academic year, and for each academic year thereafter) and a \$22.6 million cut to community college base aid. The Legislature rejected all TAP cuts and reduced the cut to community college base aid by 50% (\$11.3 million).

## **B. Legislative Highlights**

### ***1. Community Colleges***

New York State has 36 public community colleges: 30 within the State University system and six within the City University system. With an enrollment of approximately 331,504 students, community colleges provide a primary source of access to higher education opportunities. The community colleges of SUNY and CUNY are referred to as "full opportunity" institutions, accepting all recent high school graduates and returning residents from the colleges' sponsorship areas.

Community colleges are unique in that they are financed cooperatively by three partners: the State, a local sponsor, and the students. Community colleges are primarily governed by the local sponsor, assuring that these institutions have greater flexibility to respond to the local educational needs of their unique student population. Many community college students are non-traditional students who return to college later in life, attend part-time and/or combine work and family responsibilities with study.

## **2. *City University of New York***

Founded as the Free Academy in 1847, the City University of New York (CUNY) has grown into the largest urban university in the nation. CUNY is also the third largest university in the country and is comprised of 23 campuses throughout Queens, Brooklyn, Manhattan, the Bronx, and Staten Island. It includes eleven senior colleges, a two-year preparatory medical program, an honors college, a journalism school, a school of professional studies, a law school, a graduate center, and six community colleges. Through this network, CUNY provides educational opportunities and skills training to an ethnically and culturally diverse population of approximately 259,507 students annually: 170,745 at the senior colleges and 88,762 at the community colleges.

## **3. *State University of New York***

The State University of New York is the largest public university system in the nation, embracing 64 distinct individual campuses located in urban, suburban, and rural communities across New York State. These 64 campuses offer a full range of academic, professional, and vocational programs through their university centers, comprehensive colleges, colleges of technology, and community colleges. The State University system enrolls approximately 464,981 students in over 7,000 programs of study.

### **The New York Higher Education Cares Act**

**A.300, Millman; Chapter 8 of the Laws of 2009.** This law authorizes the administration of both public and private colleges and universities in New York State to develop and implement a program to collect and distribute students' unused or surplus goods to local not-for-profit organizations.

### **Creating Technology Employment Community Hub (TECH) Centers**

**A.356, Magnarelli; Passed the Assembly.** This bill would have allowed the New York State Office of Science, Technology and Academic Research to award grants up to \$100,000, on a competitive basis and by a request for proposal (RFP) process, to community colleges for: reconstructing, rehabilitating or improving existing labs; attaining or upgrading equipment to provide targeted educational, occupational or training services to students or workers; and providing salaries for faculty directly engaged in these activities.

### **Increased Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) Awards for Wards of the Court**

**A.2713, Glick; Passed the Assembly.** This bill would have changed the TAP income schedule for students who have been granted an exclusion of parental income due to unusual and exceptional family circumstances from the independent schedule to the dependent schedule. This change would have allowed these students to become eligible for a greater TAP award.

### **Requiring College Campuses to Educate Students about Domestic Violence and Stalking**

**A.2714, Glick; Chapter 13 of the Laws of 2009.** This law requires each college or university's advisory committee on campus safety to educate the campus community, including security personnel and individuals who advise or supervise students, about domestic violence and stalking offenses and how to report such incidents. In addition, this bill would require each college or university to inform incoming students about domestic violence and stalking prevention measures through various programs including workshops, seminars, discussion groups, or film presentations.

### **Requiring the Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC) to Make Timely Financial Aid Determinations**

**A.2723, Pretlow; Passed the Assembly.** This bill would have required the Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC) to make a financial aid eligibility determination within sixty days of receipt of a student's application.

### **Requiring the Higher Education Service Corporation (HESC) to Report on the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)**

**A.6391, Glick; Passed the Assembly.** This bill would have required HESC to develop and prepare a report on TAP to be distributed to the governor, the majority leader of the senate, the speaker of the assembly, the chair of the senate finance committee, the chair of the assembly ways and means committee and the chairs of the higher education committees in both houses. The president of HESC would be required to submit the report by February 15th of each year.

**Eliminating Senate Confirmation of the Higher Education Service Corporation's (HESC) Board of Trustees Community College Student Member**

**A.8220, Glick; Passed the Assembly.** This bill would have eliminated the required Senate confirmation of Higher Education Service Corporation (HESC)'s Board of Trustees community college student member. Due to the short time frame of a community college student's eligibility to serve on the board, often their ability lapses prior to Senate confirmation, depriving the Board of this particular student representative.

**Adjustments to Students Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) Awards**

**A.8864, Canestrari; Veto Number 24.** This bill would have allowed student recipients of TAP to apply for mid-year adjustments to reflect a change in financial status of the student, the student's spouse or the student's parents under certain circumstances. These circumstances include: catastrophic illness, permanent or total physical or mental disability, death, permanent or total disability, a call to active military duty, divorce or separation.

### III. LICENSED PROFESSIONS

#### A. Legislative Highlights

New York State currently licenses 48 professions under Title VIII of the Education Law. Legislation to license a new profession or to alter the practice of an existing profession falls under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Higher Education. SED, through its Office of the Professions, regulates the practice of such professions on an ongoing basis.

An essential component of the monitoring process is to ensure that existing standards and qualifications reflect current practices and needs, especially in light of shifting demographics and rapidly changing technologies. Each year, the Committee reviews numerous pieces of legislation which propose to change the scope of practice of currently licensed professions. Modifying current professional standards provides a means by which the Committee fulfills its obligations to protect the well-being of the public.

#### **Limited Dental Instruction for Dentists Licensed in Another State**

**A.1130-A, Dinowitz; Passed the Assembly.** This bill would have allowed dentists licensed in another state or country to receive dental training at an approved dental school or any entity operating a residency program in New York that has been accredited by a national accrediting body approved by the Department of Education.

#### **Clarifying the Scope of Practice of Physician Assistants**

**A.1726-B, Gottfried; Passed the Assembly.** This bill would have clarified that a physician assistant may perform various functions relating to the medical services, under the supervision of a physician, that are within their scope of practice.

#### **Authorized Professionals Appointed by Ironman North America Triathlon, Inc.**

**A.2029-A, Sayward; Chapter 81 of the Laws of 2009.** This Chapter allows a person licensed to practice as a physician, physician's assistant, massage therapist, physical therapist, chiropractor, dentist, optometrist, nurse, nurse practitioner or podiatrist in another state or territory who is in good standing in that state or territory, to provide professional services in New York to athletes and team personnel registered to train at a location in New York to compete in an event sanctioned by Ironman North America Triathlon, Inc. This Chapter was in effect from July 22 to July 27, 2009.

### **Permanently Extending Citizenship Requirement Waivers for Qualified Veterinarians**

**A.6394, Magee; Chapter 109 of the Laws of 2009.** This law permanently extends the provision that allows the Board of Regents to grant a one time three-year waiver to qualified non-citizen veterinarians and vet technicians in areas which the State Education Department (SED) has certified as having a shortage of veterinarians and vet technicians.

### **Eliminating Limited Permit Requirements for Dental Residents**

**A.6718-B, Pheffer; Chapter 436 of the Laws of 2009.** This law allows dental residents to take the mandated dental ethics training during their residency program. This law also eliminates limited permits for these individuals and instead requires them to register with the State Education Department.

### **Exempting those who are Dually Licensed Dentists Engaged in the Practice of Dentistry from Office-Based Surgery Requirements**

**A.6858-A, Gottfried; Passed the Assembly.** This bill would have exempted individuals who are dually licensed as dentists and physicians and practice only as dentists from Department of Health oversight and accreditation provisions that are intended for physicians who engage in office-based surgery. These exempted dually licensed dentists and physicians, who are only engaging in the practice of dentistry, are currently overseen by the State Education Department and receive certification depending on the level of anesthesia/sedation they use.

### **Continuing Education for Veterinarians and Veterinarian Technicians**

**A.7203-B, Abbate; Passed the Assembly.** This bill would have created mandatory continuing education for veterinarians and veterinary technicians licensed to practice in the State of New York. During each triennial registration period, an applicant will need to complete forty-five hours of acceptable continuing education hours. Those engaged in the armed forces, teaching full-time in veterinary medicine or not currently practicing will be exempt from completing such continuing education.

### **Expanding the Practice of Public Accountancy**

**A.11696-A, Glick; Chapter 651 of the Laws of 2008.** This law expands the definition of scope for the practice of accountancy; clarifies that individuals applying for limited permits must have professional qualifications that are determined to be significantly comparable to the licensure requirements for certified public accountancy in New York; creates temporary practice permits for certified public accountants licensed and in good standing by another State that has significantly comparable certified public accountancy licensure requirements,



or whose individual licensure qualifications are verified by the State Education Department (SED) to be significantly comparable to New York's requirements; and allows a certified public accountant licensed by another State and in good standing to perform only non-attest services in New York without a license or temporary practice permit. Further, this law gives certified public accountants the option to take 24 hours of concentrated continuing education in any of the recognized areas of study and requires firms, other than sole proprietorship firms and firms with two or fewer accounting professionals, to participate in a mandatory quality review based on standards promulgated by SED.

#### IV. PUBLIC HEARINGS

##### The New York Higher Education Loan Program (NYHELPS)

October 6, 2009 250 Broadway, Room 1923 New York, New York
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The crash of the housing market and the economic downturn has had a significant impact on the loan market. Obtaining private college loans and low-cost private college loans in particular has become even more difficult for families. In the 2009-10 Executive budget the Governor proposed and the Legislature approved the creation of the New York Higher Education Loan Program (NYHELPS) to provide New York State students and families a lower cost alternative to other private loans in order to make up the difference between the cost of college and available State and federal aid. The program is designed to be a partnership between the State, private lenders and higher education institutions to offer both fixed and variable rate loans.

NYHELPS will provide, on an annual basis, a minimum of \$350 million in fixed rate loans with individual loans of up to \$10,000 to resident students, who have an eligible co-signor and are enrolled in a degree-granting program at a New York State college or university. NYHELPS requires that a student exhaust all State, federal (other than Federal PLUS loans) and institutional aid before they can apply for a loan. For fixed rate loans a lender will originate the loan and the State of New York Mortgage Agency (SONYMA) will then purchase the loan with funds raised by issuing bonds. The program also allows for an unlimited amount of variable rate loans which would be originated and held by private lenders. The Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC) is the agency in charge of administering NYHELPS and for developing regulations for the program which will begin in the spring semester of the 2009-10 academic year. On September 2, 2009 the proposed NYHELPS regulations developed by HESC were published in the New York State Register. This began a 45-day public comment period which ended on October 17, 2009.

The Higher Education Committee sought testimony on developing NYHELPS and how to best inform and protect students and their families who participate in the program.

Individuals who testified at the hearing include: Abe Lackman, Former President, Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities (CICU); John Curtice, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Financial Aid, State University of New York (SUNY); Patrick Krug, Chair, New York Public Interest Research Group's (NYPIRG) Statewide Board of Directors; Fran Clark, Program Coordinator, New York Public Interest Research Group

(NYPIRG); Claudia Wilner, Senior Staff Attorney, Neighborhood Economic Development Advocacy Project (NEDAP); James Murphy, Associate Dean for Enrollment, City University of New York; Elsa Magee, Executive Vice President and Acting President, New York Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC); Charles Treadwell, Senior Policy Advisor, New York Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC); and Priscilla Almodovar, President & CEO, The State of New York Mortgage Agency (SONYMA).

## V. OUTLOOK FOR 2010

As the Committee looks ahead to the upcoming 2010 Legislative Session, many of the traditional goals relative to higher education and the professions will continue to take precedence.

Foremost among the Committee's priorities for the 2010 session will be to secure financing for the coming fiscal year sufficient to meet the needs of SUNY, CUNY and the independent sector and to support their unique missions. The broader goal of preserving access opportunities to higher education for students all across New York State is also critical. By continuing to fight for increased funding for access programs, the Committee will promote the recognition of these highly successful educational services. Another priority of the Committee will be to provide capital funding for SUNY and CUNY as well as the independent sector. Campuses throughout the state are in need of funding for critical maintenance as well as the expansion of academic and residence facilities. As always, the Committee will continue to focus on TAP and ensure the availability of the program at current or enhanced levels. The Assembly Higher Education Committee is proud of this comprehensive financial aid program and will fight to continue its success in opening doors to college students throughout the State.

In 2010, the Committee will also address several important legislative issues. Among these will be measures relating to the licensed professions overseen by the Department of Education's Office of the Professions. Chief among these will be initiatives aimed at preserving the integrity of the individual professions and ensuring that professional competence translates into increased public protection and safety. The Committee will continue to study the evolution of existing professions to assess the possible need for statutory changes to reflect the changing needs of consumers.

## APPENDIX A

### PROFESSIONS LICENSED OR CERTIFIED BY THE BOARD OF REGENTS

Acupuncture	Medicine
Architecture	Mental Health Practitioners
Athletic Trainer	Midwifery
Audiology	Nurse Practitioners
Certified Dental Assistants	Occupational Therapy
Certified Dietician	Occupational Therapy Assistant
Certified Interior Design	Ophthalmic Dispensing
Certified Nutritionist	Optometry
Certified Public Accountancy	Pharmacy
Certified Shorthand Reporting	Physical Therapy
Chiropractic	Physical Therapy Assistant
Clinical Laboratory Technology	Physician Assistant
Dental Anesthesia/ Sedation	Podiatry
Dentistry	Psychology
Dental Hygiene	Public Accountancy
Dietetics and Nutrition	Registered Nursing
Engineering	Respiratory Therapy
Landscape Architecture	Respiratory Therapy Assistant
Land Surveying	Specialist's Assistant
Licensed Practical Nurse	Social Work
Massage Therapy	Speech-Language Pathology
Medical Physician	Veterinary Medicine
Medical Physics	Veterinary Technology

APPENDIX B

2009 SUMMARY SHEET

Summary of Action on All Bills Referred to the Committee on Higher Education

<b>Final Action</b>	<b>Assembly Bills</b>	<b>Senate Bills</b>	<b>Total Bills</b>
<b>Bills Reported With or Without Amendment</b>			
To Floor; not returning to Committee	9		9
To Floor; recommitted and died			
To Ways and Means Committee	17		17
To Codes Committee	2		2
To Rules Committee	1		1
To Judiciary Committee			
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>		<b>29</b>
<b>Bills Having Committee Reference Changed</b>			
To Education Committee	2		2
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>2</b>
<b>Senate Bills Substituted or Recalled</b>			
Substituted		1	1
Recalled		1	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Bills Defeated in Committee</b>			
<b>Bills Never Reported, Held in Committee</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>254</b>
<b>Bills Never Reported, Died in Committee</b>			
<b>Bills Having Enacting Clause Stricken</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>4</b>
<b>Motion to Discharge Lost</b>			
<b>TOTAL Bills in Committee</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>291</b>
<b>Total Number of Committee Meetings Held</b>		<b>10</b>	