

**ASSEMBLYMEMBER
ROBERT CARROLL**
44th District



Report to the Community: STATE BUDGET UPDATE

EDUCATION

Foundation Aid

- The Governor's 2017/2018 Executive Budget includes \$25B statewide for Education.
- Of that \$25B - \$10B is being budgeted to New York City Schools. \$7.3B in Foundation Aid and \$2.7B in reimbursable aid.
- Foundation Aid is the formula used to determine funding for school districts after the NYS Court of Appeals ruling in 2006, which found that New York State was violating students constitutional right to a "sound and basic education" by leaving schools without the funding necessary. Foundation Aid accounts for Teachers, Para-Professionals, Principals, and other operating expenses associated with running our schools. In accordance with the Campaign for Fiscal Equity, New York City is actually owed roughly \$9B in Foundation Aid in the upcoming FY 2017/2018 budget.
- Since Governor Cuomo is only allocating \$7.3B in Foundation Aid for New York City Schools, New York City will again be shorted \$1.7B in critical Foundation Aid. Further, Governor Cuomo is seeking to repeal the Foundation Aid formula and turn back the clock on funding our public schools.
- Foundation Aid was designed to create an equitable district by district funding structure so that all of our children are able to receive a sound and basic education. In his attempt to repeal the foundation aid formula from Education Law, the Governor will exacerbate the inequities in districts across our city and I, along with Speaker Heastie and my Majority Colleagues will fight to make sure that New York City Schools get the Foundation Aid to which we are entitled. I urge you to call the Governor at 518-474-8390 and tell him to fully fund our New York City Public Schools.

Charter Schools

- The Governor's budget increases the amount of direct funding New York City must pay charter schools for tuition and it eliminates the State's Charter Supplemental Basic Tuition Reimbursement, causing the rate per pupil to go from \$14,000 to \$15,730 per year. Overall, this will cost the city \$200M for FY 2017/2018.
- Additionally, this budget forces the city to increase the amount it pays to Charters for facility aid from 20% to 30%, which would cost the city another \$8M this year.

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EDUCATION CONTINUED

Community Schools

- The Governor's budget increases Community School Aid by \$32M to a total of \$60.5M. Community Schools reimagine schools as not just a place to learn, but a place for the entire community and provide resources for housing, job training, health care, and counseling. This is a successful and vital program, but that \$60.5M should be set aside in addition to Foundation Aid because Community Schools are inherently different than traditional schools.

FUNDING FOR OUR SENIORS

- The Governor's budget includes a proposal to cut \$17M of Title XX funds which have been used to fund senior centers in New York City.
- This \$17M cut would result in the closure of 65 senior centers across New York City and impact over 6,000 seniors per day. 1.5 million meals annually would be lost, and 24,000 hours of case assistance to help seniors access public benefits, housing concerns, and other necessary aid would disappear.
- The Governor is directing the Title XX funds to go to childcare services. We should not be playing our children and our seniors off of each other in the state budget – both need critical funds and BOTH should be fully funded.

TRANSPORTATION

- The MTA is the lifeblood of the state and we must find ways to fully fund the MTA capital plan.
- In his Executive budget Governor Cuomo is proposing a \$65M Cut to the MTA – which is just unacceptable. I am proud to have signed on to a letter with 65 of my Assembly colleagues to oppose this cut and I will continue to fight these cuts because it is critical that our subways and buses are fully funded.
- On Monday, February 27th, I joined with Riders Alliance and other elected officials for a press conference to call on the Governor to restore this critical funding in the MTA budget.

PARKS

- As a member of the Parks Committee in the Assembly, and as the Assemblymember who has the privilege to have Prospect Park in his District – I am committed to fighting for our city parks to get the funding necessary to maintain them. Governor Cuomo has budgeted \$53M for his Empire State Trail, which is a paved path for anything but driving that will stretch from Manhattan to northern New York, across to Albany and Buffalo.
- While the trail is a fine idea, The Governor's budget is only setting aside \$20M for ALL of our municipal parks statewide – which includes Prospect Park. Neglecting our parks is not an option and we must make it a top priority to make certain that we are properly maintaining the park through the budget so that it remains a gem of our community.

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HOUSING

- I am advocating for an additional mansion tax on luxury housing at the point of sale to help produce funds that could be used to create more affordable and senior housing. By taxing the sale of homes over \$5M at the point of sale we will raise necessary funds to produce future affordable housing. The state should also create a tax on new luxury rental and condo units that will be directly earmarked for the construction of new affordable and senior units.

LIBRARIES

- New York State Education Law requires Library Aid for FY 2017-2018 to be \$102.6M.
- State Aid to Libraries allocation was \$95.6M—an increase of \$4M from the legislature, but still short of the \$102.6M required by State Education law

MEDICAID

- The Affordable Care Act/Medicaid Expansion saved New York State \$600M and contributed \$2.5B to our State's budget. Simply repealing the ACA's Medicaid expansion would cost the State over \$3B per year.

ENVIRONMENT

Clean Water Infrastructure Act

- The Governor is proposing a \$2 Billion proposal to improve municipal drinking water distribution, filtration systems, and wastewater treatment infrastructure. The \$2B would be funded at \$400M per year over five years.
- No funds have been allocated yet, but NYC needs \$200M to complete water tunnel number three and to maintain our drinking water infrastructure.

TRANSPORTATION/INFRASTRUCTURE

Design Build

- The Governor is proposing to expand the authorized entities that may utilize Design Build contracts to include all state agencies, authorities, and counties outside of New York City.
- Design Build is a project delivery method that allows for a single contractor to be responsible for both a project's design and construction.
- I am fighting for the State to authorize the city to use Design Build in New York City because it would significantly reduce the amount of time major infrastructure projects may take and save the city millions of dollars.
- NYC Capital agencies have identified \$7.3 Billion in projects for which it could save \$450 Million if it was authorized to use Design Build.

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HIGHER EDUCATION

- As a Graduate of SUNY Binghamton, I know there is no better investment the State can make than higher education. We must continuously update our facilities and see to it that our college students in New York State continue to get the world class education that I and so many others have gotten over the years.
- I applaud the Governor on his Excelsior Scholarship which proposes free tuition for certain CUNY/SUNY students, but we must make sure that we are always properly funding all CUNY/SUNY schools at the State Level. Currently the operating budgets of SUNY/CUNY are woefully underfunded. NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer noted that there is \$700 Million shortfall in CUNY's funding because Albany's investment in CUNY has failed to keep pace with overall growth.
- Adding \$300 Million in state allocation for CUNY would ensure adequate staffing and retention of professors and maintain CUNY's mission of being a quality affordable education for all New York City residents.
- Many of the same needs that CUNY has - SUNY has as well. If we want to grow the upstate economy there is no better way than investing in our State University system.

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

- Direct Support Professionals are approximately 100,000 people who deliver the services that individuals and families with developmental disabilities depend on.
- These professionals are often available 24 hours a day and 7 days a week, but they're being paid just over \$11 dollars per hour on average.
- I am joining with advocates to call on the Governor to add \$45 Million to the budget to begin to provide a living wage for these critical direct support professionals.
- The state must add \$18 Million in Excessive Teacher Turnover Prevention Grants to allow 853 and 4410 provider schools to increase salaries for certified teachers to provide federally mandated Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE), which is an educational right of children with disabilities in the United States that is guaranteed by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).