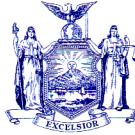


MINORITY TASK FORCES
Economic Development,
Education and Infrastructure

Tax Mandate Relief
and Government Reform

Public Safety



**THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY**

STEVE HAWLEY
Assemblyman 139th District
Genesee, Orleans, Monroe, and Niagara Counties

CHAIR
Minority Steering Committee

MEMBER
Assembly Minority
Review Committee

COMMITTEES
Ways and Means
Agriculture
Insurance
Racing and Wagering
Veterans' Affairs

September 27, 2011

Hon. Andrew Cuomo, Governor
State of New York
State Capitol
2nd Floor
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

I am writing this letter to strongly encourage you to reconvene the Assembly and Senate so that we may begin to immediately work on mandate relief.

As representatives of New York State we are all shirking our duties by our inaction regarding the financial disposition we have put local governments in by not instituting true mandate relief. I am asking you to reconvene both houses of the legislature immediately to begin the arduous task of reducing the burden on local governments and taxpayers.

I recently had a meeting with several local Town, Village and County Elected Officials discussing the current property tax cap and their concern with immediate mandate relief. During this meeting it was vehemently echoed throughout the room how important it is to address mandate relief immediately! 80-90% of most county budget expenses are attributable to onerous and overzealous mandates.

By far, New York's largest unfunded mandate is Medicaid - \$7.5 billion for the 2010-11 fiscal year. There are a number of remedies available: 1) Placing a three-year moratorium on unfunded mandates 2) Requiring the Mandate Relief Redesign Team to review existing mandates to determine which to eliminate 3) Allowing Counties the Discretion for Optional Medicaid Services 4) Allowing counties to opt out of providing optional Medicaid services to new enrollees 5) Imposing a residency requirement on people seeking Medicaid benefits: I introduced legislation A-6059 which requires that recipients of public assistance benefits to be residents of the state for at least ninety days prior to applying for benefits.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration. I look forward to working cooperatively with you and your administration to return fiscal integrity to the Empire State again. I know you share my concern!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Hawley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "S".

STEVE HAWLEY
Member of Assembly
139th AD

SMH:esb