A Special Update on the 2016-17 State Budget

BRIAN CURRAN
NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY

Please look inside for a special update from

Assemblyman Brian Curran

regarding the 2016-17 State Budget

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IMPROVING EDUCATION

This year's state budget includes another record year of school aid and foundation aid funding for our Nassau County school districts, especially ***West Hempstead Union Free School District!***

WE DID IT! We FULLY RESTORED the Education Cuts of 2010, also known as the GEA (Gap Elimination Adjustment)!

This year's record school aid topped last year's record!
2015-16 School Aid = $9,463,993
2016-17 School Aid = $10,182,113
Difference: Increase of $718,120, or 8 percent.

2015-16 Library Aid: $91.6 million
2016-17 Library Aid: $95.6 million
Difference: Increase of $4 million, or 4 percent.

2016-17 Library Construction Grants:
$19 million, $5 million more than last year.
Library Construction Grants are available to public libraries for the acquisition, rehabilitation, renovation, or construction of buildings.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Continuing our children's education is an important step toward career readiness. Right now, many students are wrestling with not being able to afford college because of an uncertain job market and still fragile economy. **By providing our young adults with the tools they need to establish successful careers, we are doing our part to help them reach their goals.**

- The Legislature rejected the governor's request for five more years of tuition increases ($300/year) at SUNY schools;
- We increased funding for both CUNY and SUNY colleges;
- We increased base aid to SUNY and CUNY community colleges; and
- Extended various college loan forgiveness programs.

SUPPORTING OUR FAMILIES

Since being elected to the State Assembly, one of my main concerns has been **protecting the bottom lines of hardworking families and making sure their hard earned take home pay is sufficient.** This year was no exception:

- I was pleased to support another tax cut for our middle class families that piggybacks off the record middle class tax cuts that were passed in December 2011. When fully phased in, these tax cuts will put more money in families' pockets in order to put food on the table and buy clothing for children; and
- I was also happy to support the Family Leave provision that will allow a parent time off from his/her job to be with their new child or care for an ill family member.

With respect to keeping our families safe, I have been working closely with my colleagues in the state Legislature, Nassau County Executive Ed Mangano, local elected officials, local community organizations, and law enforcement on workshops, trainings, forums, and other events that address the heroin epidemic on Long Island. It is no secret that heroin addiction and abuse on Long Island and across the state is increasing rapidly, and something has to be done to protect our children, families, and loved ones from this very dangerous path. That is why in this year's state budget:

- I supported an additional $25 million in funding to combat the heroin epidemic across the state.

FIGHTING FOR OUR SENIORS

This is the second budget in a row in which the Legislature has successfully prevented the governor from making drastic cuts to important senior programs. Protecting our seniors, making sure they can afford to stay in their homes, providing them with essential services, and protecting their fixed incomes has been an important mission for me as your assemblyman. This year, I am pleased to say that we:

- Rejected the governor's plan to cap Medicare B reimbursements; and
- Prevented the governor from eliminating the reimbursement for the Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount (IRMAA).