



MONDAY MARCH 30th, 2015

New York State Assembly Weekly Report From Assistant Speaker Felix W. Ortiz



Ortiz discussed this year's budget and its impact on Teamsters Local 202 direct care professionals. Teamsters representative Dan Kane, Jr. and representatives of the AABR: "Empowering People with Disabilities" attended the meeting.

As we prepare to vote on a 2015-16 budget, highlights include:

Total State Operating Funds: \$94.25 billion; 2.0% growth

School Aid: \$23.5 billion; 6.1% growth in Medicaid: \$17.741 billion; 4.6% growth from financial settlements: \$5.4 billion for the Upstate Revitalization Initiative and \$500 million to make New York the first in the nation to have statewide broadband.

New landmark education reforms and investment;

Ground-breaking ethics reform creating strong and comprehensive accountability for legislators;

\$5 billion investment in New York State's economy; and spending growth held to 2% for the 5th consecutive year



Ortiz met with the Communications Workers of America Local 1109 (CWA) to talk about A.5960, a bill to require the state Public Service Commission to conduct a comprehensive study of the telecommunications industry. They also talked about legislation to protect workers, consumers and jobs in the event of a telephone access-line sale.



Roberto Chico and Marcellino Navarro from TWU Local 100 joined Ortiz in Albany to discuss providing \$100 million in the budget for a new BRT system (bus and rapid transit), health insurance coverage for surviving spouses or domestic partners, disability benefits and the heart & lung bills.

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