



Assemblyman  
**Walter T.  
MOSLEY**

55 Hanson Place, Brooklyn, NY 11217

New York State Assembly, 57<sup>th</sup> District  
Contact: 718-596-0100

WalterTMosley  
 AssemblymanWalterMosley

*Reports to  
the People*

Spring 2016

## New York State Legislature Passes Monumental Budget

Dear Neighbors,

As the New York State Assembly Majority and Senate moved to pass this year's budget on April 1st, I am proud of the work we have accomplished in the State Capitol. It is with great pleasure that I, along with my colleagues, passed one of the most progressive state budgets in recent history.

Since being elected in 2012, I can honestly say that this is truly one of the most inclusive and comprehensive budgets I have ever worked on. We added record-setting appropriations to support affordable and supportive housing programs, reinvestment into our aging stock of public housing, and funding to education opportunity programs, including \$20 million for the My Brother's Keeper Initiative to support young men of color. Today, we are truly investing in our future by ensuring New York families have the resources they need. We provided funding to support human services programs with over \$50 million in Temporary Assistance and Needy Family (TANF) initiatives—which included record-level funding for summer youth, career pathway, and anti-poverty programs. Additionally, we were able to secure \$3.5 million in S.N.U.G. funding which provides vitally needed gun violence prevention programs in our community.

***We added record-setting appropriations to support affordable and supportive housing programs, reinvestment into our aging stock of public housing, and funding to education opportunity programs.***

However, I am still deeply concerned over the persistent failure to pass the Dream Act within the state budget. This provision is critically needed to help hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers attain a college education and be able to provide better lives for themselves and their families.

As we move past the budget negotiations, I reaffirm my commitment to the People's Priority agenda outlined by my office this year, which calls for criminal justice reform measures, added workforce development programs, and reduced gun violence in our community. The state budget, in conjunction with these progressive legislative initiatives, aims to better the lives of the hard-working families and the middle class in our communities in order to ensure that New York State continues to work for the people.

Sincerely,

Hon. Walter T. Mosley  
Member, New York State Assembly, 57th AD



**In Albany Fighting for the People** –  
Assemblyman Walter T. Mosley on the chamber room floor.

## New York State Assembly Legislative Highlights:

### Strengthening New York's Higher Education System

The 2016-17 budget ensures that tuition at CUNY schools will not be raised during the coming academic year because every New Yorker has the right to receive an affordable college education. The budget also provides an increase of \$12 million in operating funds for CUNY.

"We can't expect our students to get good jobs and achieve economic security if they can't afford the very thing that will get them there—a college degree," Assemblyman Mosley said. "We must do all we can to make higher education more accessible while also preventing students from falling into the dark hole of student loan debt. And by saying 'no' to tuition hikes, we are signaling our commitment to doing just that, so every New Yorker has a chance to get ahead."

Community colleges play a vital role in New York's public higher education system. To strengthen these schools, the budget includes \$6.2 million in support for CUNY community colleges for an increase of \$100 per full-time equivalent (FTE) student, for a total of \$2,697 per FTE student. The budget also includes \$2.5 million for CUNY's

*Continued on next page*

# 2016-2017 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

## Strengthening New York's Higher Education System *Continued from page 1*



Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP), which provides motivated community college students with the comprehensive support they need to earn their degrees as quickly as possible.

“Further, in a victory for the CUNY system, the budget rejects the governor’s proposal to shift \$485 million of CUNY operating expenses to New York City, protecting and maintaining the quality of education and programs offered by the schools. The city of New York should not be forced to unfairly foot the bill for state costs,” noted Assemblymember Mosley.

### Strengthening College Opportunity Programs

The budget also provides a 20 percent increase over last year, for a total of \$23.8 million, for the following opportunity programs:

- **Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP):** \$35.5 million, an increase of \$5.9 million;
- **Educational Opportunity Program (EOP):** \$32.2 million, an increase of \$5.4 million;
- **Search for Education, Elevation, and Knowledge program (SEEK):** \$28.1 million, an increase of \$4.7 million;
- **Liberty Partnerships:** \$18.4 million, an increase of \$3.1 million;
- **Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP):** \$15.8 million, an increase of \$2.6 million;
- **Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP):** \$11.9 million, an increase of \$1.9 million; and
- **College Discovery Program:** \$1.3 million, an increase of \$225,000.

Additionally, the budget allocates \$3 million for the Foster Youth College Success Initiative—an increase of \$1.5 million—to help these students overcome the challenges associated with being a part of the foster care system and support them throughout their college careers.

## \$2M in Funding to Increase Diversity in NYC Specialized High Schools

New York City’s Specialized High Schools have seen a shockingly low number of black and Latino students apply for and enroll in recent years. A survey from 2005-2013 showed that despite the fact that black and Latino students made up a majority of rising eighth graders—71.6 percent—they made up only 52 percent of students who even took the Specialized High School Admission Test. In order to address this lack of diversity, \$2 million in funding will be dedicated to expand the pool of applicants.

Included in the 2016-17 budget is:

- \$350,000 for Outreach Coordinators at each school who will focus on ensuring that students in underrepresented middle schools are engaged and included.
- \$650,000 for test prep for middle school students from underrepresented populations to pay for test prep at each Specialized High School.
- \$750,000 appropriation to NYC DOE for test prep targeting free and reduced-price lunch students in New York City.
- \$250,000 for the Brooklyn Tech Alumni Foundation to enhance their current, successful middle school pipeline program.

## The My Brother’s Keeper Initiative

The federal My Brother’s Keeper initiative was established by President Obama to address the enduring opportunity gaps faced by minority males. To carry out the goals of this initiative, the budget provides \$20 million to implement the Board of Regents’ recommendations from its Workgroup to Improve Outcomes for Boys and Young Men of Color.

As a member of the New York Assembly’s Education Committee, as well as a Workgroup member, Assemblyman Mosley along with other educators, administrators, and education advocates came together over several months this past winter to discuss some of the pressing issues facing young men and boys of color. By examining male minority’s K-12th grade experience in academic facilities, the Workgroup put together a set of bold initiatives.

The \$20 million My Brother’s Keeper initiative will be allocated to implement:

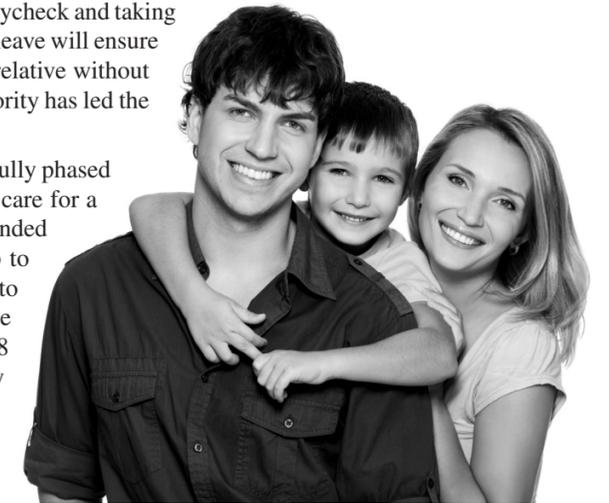
- \$2 million to establish the Office of Family and Community engagement.
- \$3 million to support the recruitment and retention of teachers of color.
- \$7.4 million in incentives to school districts to develop model cradle to college strategies aimed at improving the life outcomes for boys and young men of color.
- \$2 million for the expansion of model programs.

“We owe it to our children to provide a good, comprehensive education that challenges and empowers them so that each and every student has the skills they need to succeed in college and build a secure life for themselves,” Assemblyman Mosley said. “This year’s budget strengthens our public school system so that it fosters innovation, instills in all students a desire to learn and grants every child a fair shot at success.”

## Putting Families First with Paid Family Leave

“No New Yorker should have to choose between collecting a paycheck and taking care of a loved one,” Assemblyman Mosley said. “Paid family leave will ensure that workers can take time off to care for a newborn or sick relative without having to sacrifice their financial security. The Assembly Majority has led the way on this issue.”

The budget includes a paid family leave provision that, when fully phased in, will afford employees 12 weeks of paid leave per year to care for a new child or family member in need. The measure will be funded through a small weekly employee contribution and offer up to two-thirds of an employee’s salary during their absence, not to exceed two-thirds of the statewide average weekly wage. The policy will be implemented at a gradual rate, starting in 2018 with 8 weeks of paid leave offered at 50 percent of weekly income; in 2019, the benefit will increase to 10 weeks, and in 2021, employees will be able to take 12 weeks of paid leave at the full two-thirds of weekly pay. Workers will be eligible for the program after six months of employment.



## Giving New Yorkers a Raise

“Every New Yorker who puts in an honest day’s work deserves a livable wage,” Assemblyman Mosley said. “The state budget recognizes this and increases in the minimum wage to help lift working families out of poverty will give them a pathway to the middle class.”

The minimum wage increase reflects the disparate costs of living and economic realities in various regions of the state. As a result, there will be different phase-in periods for upstate and downstate communities. In New York City, the minimum wage will increase to \$11 at the end of 2016, followed by \$2 increases each year after, reaching \$15 an hour on December 31, 2018. For New York City businesses with 10 or fewer employees, the minimum wage will increase to \$10.50 at the end of 2016, followed by \$1.50 increases each of the following years and reach \$15 on December 31, 2019.

For Nassau, Suffolk, and Westchester counties, the minimum wage will increase to \$10 at the end of 2016, then increase by \$1 each year and reach \$15 on December 31, 2021.

*Every New Yorker who puts in an honest day’s work deserves a livable wage. The state budget recognizes this and increases the minimum wage to help lift working families out of poverty and give them a pathway to the middle class.*

In upstate communities, the wage will increase to \$9.70 at the end of 2016, followed by 70 cents increases each year and reach \$12.50 on December 31, 2020. The minimum wage will then potentially be increased to \$15 according to an indexed schedule set by the Division of Budget and the Department of Labor. For tipped workers, the budget pegs their wage at two-thirds of the minimum wage rounded either to the nearest five cents or to \$7.50, whichever is higher.

Annual studies will be conducted by the Division of Budget starting in 2019 to gauge economic impact and determine if a temporary suspension of the wage increases is warranted.



Support for \$15 an Hour Minimum Wage – Assemblyman Walter T. Mosley with supporters for increase in minimum wage.



**Brooklyn Technical High School Girl's Varsity Volleyball Team** – Assemblyman Walter T. Mosley and State Senator Velmanette Montgomery recently honored the Brooklyn Technical High School 2015 Girl's Varsity Volleyball Team in Albany for their Class A PSAL/City Championship win this November.



Assemblyman  
**Walter T. MOSLEY**  
*Reports to the People*

Spring 2016

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Assemblyman  
**Walter T. MOSLEY**  
*Reports to the People*

Strengthening New York's Higher Education System  
\$2M in Funding to Increase Diversity in Specialized High Schools

The My Brother's Keeper Initiative

Putting Families First with Paid Family Leave

Giving New Yorkers a Raise