

Thank you for the opportunity to give testimony today. As a member of the Invest in Our New York coalition, my organization, SURJ ROC - the Rochester chapter of Showing Up for Racial Justice, concurs that "Governor Hochul's budget fails to meet the moment." It prioritizes corporate giveaways while failing to sufficiently invest in the services and programs that keep all New Yorkers safe and thriving. For example, instead of allocating increased funding for raising the wages of child care workers, it proposes making more families eligible. Without staff, this is an empty gesture.

Further, she undermines a historic investment in public schools, sorely needed here in Rochester, by proposing a permanent, massive charter school expansion. With AQE, another member of the IONY coalition, "We urge the New York State Senate and Assembly to completely reject the Governor's proposals to remove the regional cap on charters and reauthorize 'zombie charters.'"

We need the state to enact the Invest in Our New York's proposal to allocate at least \$40 B in public funds to our communities, including \$2.8 billion toward a statewide, high-quality, free childcare system that meets the needs of children and families, invests in the childcare workforce, and ensures all children can access care, regardless of immigration status, and \$2.7 B in Foundation Aid to fully fund our public schools.

Hochul proposes balancing the budget on the backs of working-people through a payroll tax, increased taxes on cigarettes and SUNY tuition-hikes. SURJ ROC calls on you to enact IONY's solution of tax fairness: raising taxes on wealthy corporations, millionaires and billionaires. It would raise \$40 B for childcare and education, climate, housing and other needs.

SURJ views public policy through a racial justice lens. The inequality in our state - No. 1 in the nation - falls most heavily on Black, Brown and poor communities. We ask you to recognize that Budget Justice is Racial Justice.
Thank