

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 making significant investments in deeply affordable housing and advancing sensible protections like Good Cause Eviction and the Housing Access Voucher Program, [her plan prioritizes deregulation & luxury housing production](#).

Instead, our community needs the state to enact the Invest in Our New York's proposal to allocate \$10.4 billion toward housing to increase access for New York's most vulnerable & to drive down the costs of rent and utilities. This includes:

- \$200 million toward the Housing Access Voucher program, providing rental-assistance to New Yorkers who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless..
- \$200 million toward the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act, ensuring that tenants can purchase their buildings when landlords decide to sell.
- \$5 billion to make buildings statewide fossil-fuel free and energy efficient, creating hundreds of thousands of green jobs.
- \$5 billion towards improving New Yorkers' housing conditions, through progressive code enforcement and the creation of new Social Housing, via acquisition, construction, and rehabilitation.

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 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 call on you to recognize that Budget Justice is Racial Justice. Thank you.

Liz Brown, Rochester