



February 26, 2025

Testimony Re: FY 2026 Executive Budget Proposal

On behalf of the New York State Laborers' Political Action Committee (NYS Laborers' PAC), representing over 40,000 members and 24 local unions, I write to express our sincere gratitude for your focus and efforts on important workforce development issues impacting New York State.

The New York State Laborers' PAC is appreciative of the opportunity to provide written testimony on the Executive budget proposals relating to labor and workforce development.

Protecting Workers Against Wage Theft

The proposed expansion of the Department of Labor's (DOL) enforcement authority to combat instances of wage theft is a necessary and welcome step in securing workers the wages they are owed and collecting tax revenue. We ardently support the proposal granting DOL the power to levy liens, seize financial assets, and issue a stop work order following a wage theft judgement. Providing the DOL with the necessary tools to enforce wage and hour laws currently on the books is imperative to protecting workers across New York State.

Funding for Pre-Apprenticeship, Apprenticeship Readiness and Apprentice Programs

The \$400,000 allocation to the Eastern New York Laborers Training Center and the Upstate New York Laborers Training Center is vital to providing New Yorkers with career opportunities in the construction industry. Its inclusion in the state budget last year assisted a number of pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship readiness participants in securing slots in certified construction apprenticeship programs. The funding assists in the removal of barriers that prevent many from seeking careers in the construction industry. The funding covers wraparound services for participants, while also covering programmatic costs. A renewal of this funding allocation is necessary to continue providing New Yorkers with career-track construction jobs.

Labor Law 224-a Revisions

Amendments to Labor Law 224-a are needed in order to realize the true intent of the statute. Since its implementation, an abysmal six projects have triggered prevailing wage requirements. True workforce development can be achieved through the removal of the public subsidy board, the elimination of the brownfield remediation exemption, the clarification of monetary thresholds and other necessary modifications. Prevailing wages promote the use of certified apprenticeship programs and bolster local economies. Amendments to 224-a are needed to empower workers, bolster the economy and create high-paying construction jobs.



Thank you for attention to these critical matters pertaining to workforce development. Please reach out to Amanda Jensen, amanda.nyslecet@gmail.com, to discuss any of our policy positions further.

Sincerely,

Vincent Albanese
Director
New York State Laborers' PAC