



**Testimony of Michael Lent  
On Behalf of Indivisible Brooklyn**

**Submitted to NYS Senate Finance & Assembly Ways & Means Committee Chairs  
For Feb. 26, 2026 Joint Legislative Hearing on Taxes**

Dear Senate Finance Chair Krueger, Assembly Ways & Means Chair Pretlow, and members of the New York State Legislature:

My name is Michael Lent, and I am providing testimony on behalf of Indivisible Brooklyn and our thousands of members. Indivisible Brooklyn is an all-volunteer, grassroots organization formed in 2016 in response to the crisis facing our democracy. Our members come from all over Brooklyn and we take collective action together to promote civic engagement around democracy and civil rights, climate justice, and an inclusive economy. **Indivisible Brooklyn supports the [Invest in Our New York package](#)**, which includes the following bills: The Progressive Income Tax Bill (S.1622/A.1281), The Corporate Tax Bill (S.952/A.1971), The Capital Gains Tax (S.1439/A.676), and The Heirs Tax (S.914/A.2049).

Brooklyn residents have suffered from high costs for childcare, healthcare, housing, and groceries. Our communities have become unaffordable for the people who live and work here. On top of this, the Federal Budget Reconciliation Bill passed last year slashes funding for healthcare and food for New Yorkers. An estimated 1.5 million New Yorkers will lose their healthcare and over 3 million New Yorkers will lose their SNAP benefits. Brooklyn will be particularly hard hit as it has by far the largest number of Medicaid and SNAP beneficiaries. Outrageously, the federal government is causing this much suffering just to redirect billions of dollars toward a massive paramilitary force that is terrorizing our communities and to fund tax cuts for wealthy individuals and corporations.

It is time for New York to take a stand and support our most vulnerable by making those who can afford it pay their fair share. Raising taxes on those who gained the most from the federal tax scam is supported by an overwhelming majority of New Yorkers, and it would allow New York to fund our communities despite the federal cuts. There is no reason not to do this.

The Invest in Our New York package would address funding gaps, bring justice to our budgets, tax those that can afford it, and make New York more affordable for the working families who live here. So we call upon the Senate and Assembly to include these bills in your one-budgets and fight to get them passed this year. Thank you.