

State Budget SFY 2021-22

Proposed Executive Budget

STATE  **WIDE**
New York StateWide Senior Action Council, Inc
275 State Street, Albany, NY 12210 • 800-333-4374 • Fax 518-436-7642
www.nysenior.org

Gail Myers, Deputy Director

NY StateWide Senior Action Council

Construct

- If \$6Billion federal funding
 - ✓ Delay improving the middle income tax cut for 1 year
 - ✓ 5% across the board spending cuts
 - ✓ Raise taxes on uber rich, but if they pre-pay they can take it as a credit in future years
(LOAN) The surcharge is for taxpayers making over \$5 million
- If \$15Billion federal funding
 - ✓ No delay in middle income tax cut
 - ✓ No spending cuts*
 - ✓ No personal income tax increases on rich

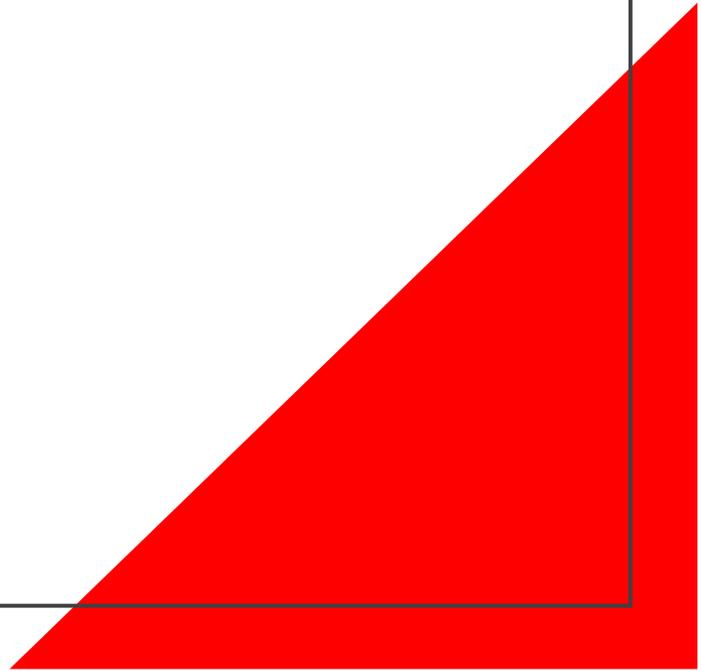
*Note – this is still an austerity budget for most programs in human services. For almost ten years, the Executive Budget has included a two percent limitation on the growth of state spending from State Operating Funds
- Budget director can make cuts as needed August 2021, if federal funds not received

Revenue

- Adult recreational cannabis (marijuana)
- DMV \$1 “convenience fee” fee for online processing of License & Registration Transactions
- Sports betting
- State revenue collections are climbing back up, but still at a loss from pre-pandemic.
- State won't be out of the woods on jobs and revenues for 2 more years.

Advocacy

- Raise revenue
- \$50 billion in revenue CAN be raised
- End austerity budgets
Raise revenue



NYS Office for the Aging (NYSOFA)

The SFY 2021-22 Executive Budget proposes \$271.6 million in All Funds appropriations for SOFA. This is a decrease of \$3.1 million or 1.1 percent below SFY 2020-21 levels and is mostly due to the proposed discontinuation of one-time Legislative additions.

- **The Executive Budget includes:**

- ✓ Continuation of the \$15 million investment in the Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly Program (EISEP). This investment delays Medicaid costs in personal care and nursing home placement, resulting in \$34 million in Medicaid savings
- ✓ Deferral of the cost-of-living adjustment, saving \$2 million

- **Reduction in funding:**

- ✓ StateWide's Patients Rights Helpline \$200,000 that was added by the Legislature in 2020

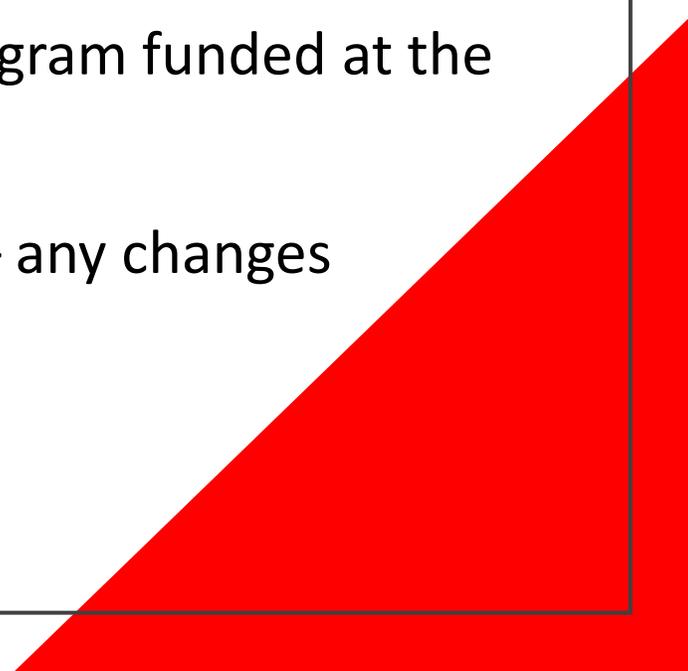
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Advocacy

- Urge funding for NYSOFA programs to meet current and future need, not just to eliminate past waiting lists.
 - Urge NYS Assembly & Senate to restore \$200,000 to NY StateWide Senior Action Council's Patients' Rights Helpline. This would keep the program funded at the same level as 2020-21.
 - Ensure that EISEP home care workers make a livable wage – any changes to Medicaid funded services need to be made to EISEP.
- 
- A large red triangle is positioned in the bottom right corner of the slide, pointing towards the top right.

Possible Impact on the Aging Network

- NYSOFA will collaborate with area local offices on aging and their commercial kitchens whose sites will intercept the nutritional food surplus for processing and flash freezing.
 - ✓ A pilot program will be implemented in the mid-Hudson region in partnership with local food rescue groups.
 - ✓ The use of the statewide kitchens will be a valuable resource that will scale up the ability of Governor Cuomo's landmark legislation to divert more food surplus from landfills and feed New Yorkers.
- Governor Cuomo will direct New York State agencies to take affirmative measures to provide greater support to our veterans.
 - ✓ All Executive State agencies that interact with the public to ask individuals in their service population whether they or any of their immediate family members have ever served in the nation's armed forces. Individuals who self identify as being veterans or members of a veteran's family will be provided with information about how the Division of Veterans' Services can review their eligibility for veteran's benefits and services.
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): The Executive Budget provides \$420 million in support for SNAP, an increase of \$20 million above SFY 2020-21.

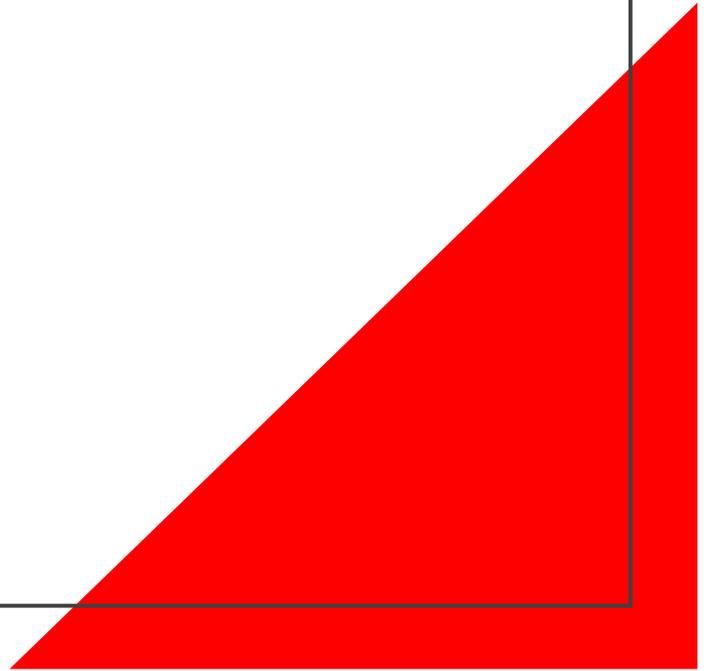
Medicaid

- No broad benefit cuts proposed
- No spousal impoverishment/spousal refusal fight this year
- Proposed change to eliminate prescriber prevails
- Proposed change to eliminate coverage for OTC
- Cuts to providers: A 1% across-the-board Medicaid Rate Reduction is included in the Medicaid savings actions.
- Continuing the Medicaid Global Cap: The Executive proposes the continuation of a Medicaid spending cap which limits growth in the DOH State Funds Medicaid spending to a 10-year rolling average of the medical component of the Consumer Price Index, currently estimated at 2.9 percent.
- ✓ From 2013 to 2020, New York State held Medicaid state-share funds spending growth to an average of 3.1 percent compared to a national average of state funds spending of 4.8 percent. In fact, New York's Medicaid spending growth was slower than 28 other states.

Advocacy

Repeal the Medicaid Global Cap

A-226



Health Workforce

- Minimum Wage Increase - to fully support the direct cost of the FY 2022 minimum wage increases for health care workers that provide Medicaid services reimbursed by the Department of Health. Wages in New York City met the \$15 minimum wage standard as of December 31, 2019 while growth continues towards the \$15 minimum wage outside of NYC. Applies to Dept of Health and the Mental Hygiene agencies
- Deferral of the cost of living adjustments
- Cuts to Worker Recruitment and Retention Funding
Proposed reduction in the Workforce Recruitment and Retention program for personal care service workers, certified home health agencies, long-term home health care programs, AIDS home care programs, and hospice programs by an additional 25% (-\$22.5 million). This funding was authorized in 2002 to support providers' ability to recruit and retain qualified direct care staff.

Workforce – Child Care a Priority

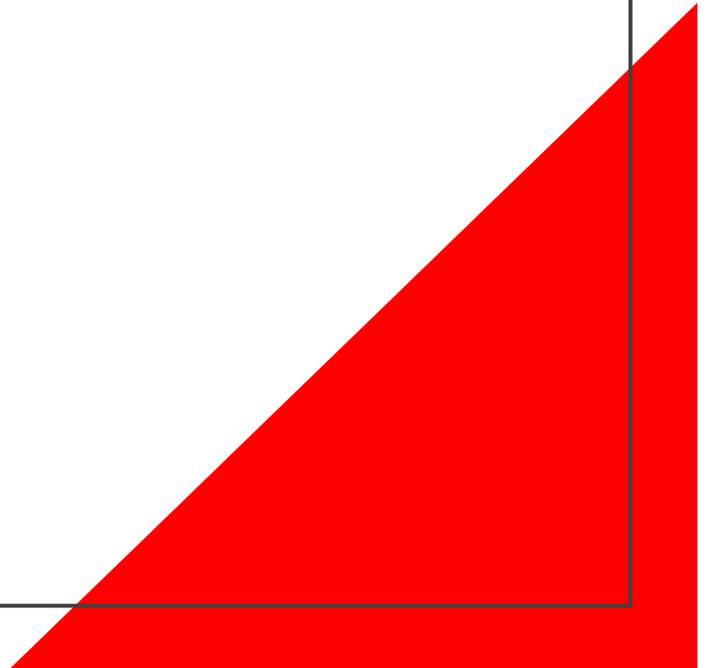
- Ensure that no New York family pays more than 20 percent of their income above the federal poverty level for a childcare subsidy co-pay, with the rest of the cost of care being covered by the subsidy.
- Increasing Child Care Availability in Child Care Deserts. Governor Cuomo in 2019 directed the State's Regional Economic Development Councils (REDCs) to focus on the issue of childcare access as part of each region's overall economic development strategy.
- Invest \$6 million for start-up grants to create programs in child care deserts and wage supports for programs located in existing deserts identified through the Regional Economic Development Councils (REDCs);

Health

- Rural Health Network Development and Health Access Program.
 - ✓ The overarching goal of this program is to improve the health of New Yorkers living in rural areas by supporting the development and operation of rural health 177 networks.
 - ✓ The SFY 2020-21 Enacted Budget consolidated the Rural Health Care Access Development and Rural Health Care Network Development programs into one program, and reduced funding by \$3.27 million to \$9.4 million.
 - ✓ The SFY 2021-22 Executive Budget proposes funding the program at \$6.2 million, a further reduction of \$3.2 million.
- The Nourish NY Initiative helps people who are food insecure to access nutritious food from New York farmers. The proposed budget adds an additional \$25 million investment and establishing a pilot program to intercept and redistribute nutritionally-viable but ugly food surplus.
- Budget cut to **NYC** Public Health
 - ✓ The Executive Budget proposes reducing reimbursement to New York City under the General Public Health Work program that provides core public health programs, such as disease prevention, community health assessments, and communicable disease control from 20 percent to 10 percent for a State savings of \$20 million in SFY 2021-22 and \$38.5 million in subsequent years.
 - ✓ This reduction does not include claims related to public health emergencies.

Advocacy

- Create home care innovation fund (\$4222)
- Restore recruitment & retention fund
- Provide a livable wage to home care workforce
150% of regional minimum wage
- “Fair Pay for Home Care” Campaign

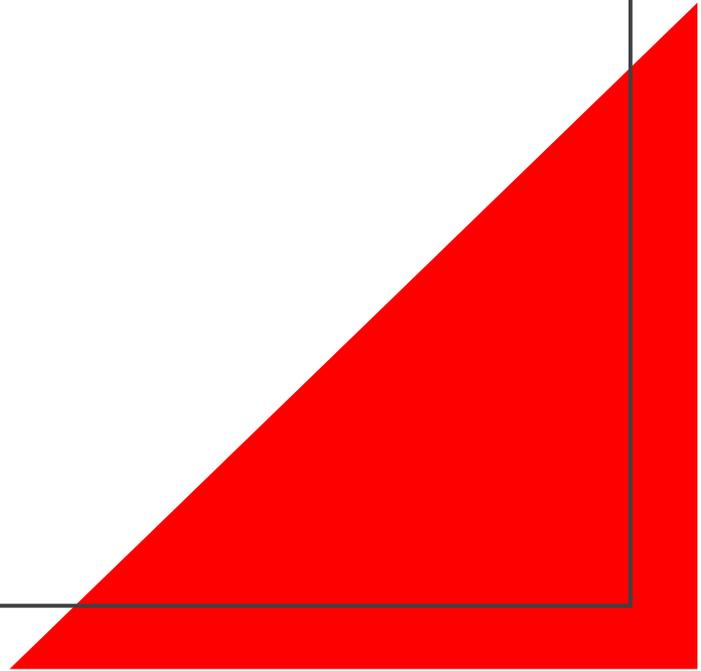


Health insurance affordability

- Eliminate Health Care Premiums for 400,000 Low-Income New Yorkers, Providing Coverage to 100,000 Uninsured New Yorkers.
- This action will waive the \$20 monthly premium for a family of four with an income between \$36,375 to \$48,500 (150-200 percent of the poverty level).
- Used federal funds.

Advocacy

- Leave No Senior Behind!
- MSP Medicare Savings Program
 - ✓ Increase benefit to 200% FPL
 - ✓ Currently MSP <135% FPL



Quality of health care

- Proposes that physicians report to the Office of Professional Medical Conduct (OPMC) within 24 hours if they are charged with a crime or misconduct. Current law requires such reporting only on the final resolution of a case involving the physician.
- Proposed authority in certain situations to disclose to the public that a complaint has been filed against a particular physician if there is a risk to the public.
- Proposal also requires physicians to post additional information on the New York State Physician Profile website. This new information includes:
 - ✓ hours of operation of the physician's practice,
 - ✓ the availability of assistive technology,
 - ✓ whether the physician is accepting new patients,
 - ✓ the physician's website and social media accounts,
 - ✓ any physicians that share a practice

Quality of health care

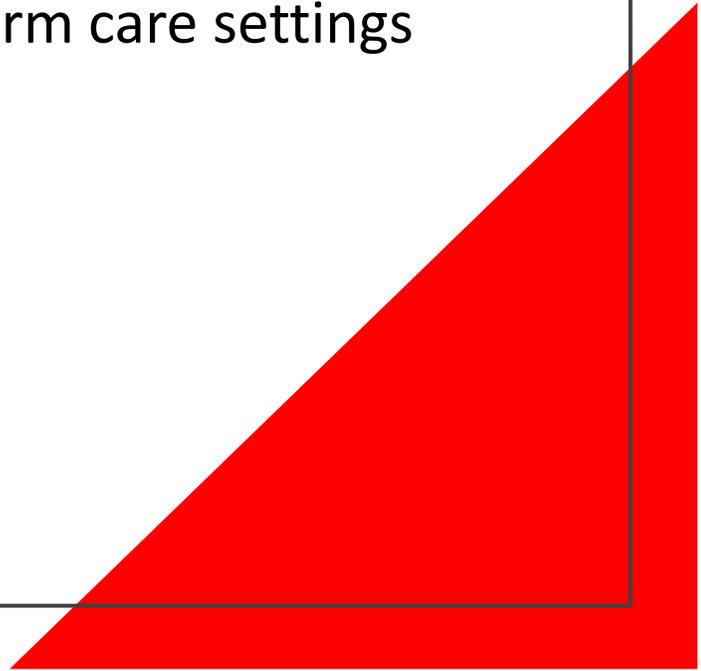
- **Eliminating the Enhancing the Quality of Adult Living Program**, saving \$6.5 million.
 - ✓ The EQUAL Program was established to enhance residents' quality of care and life experiences in adult care facilities.
 - ✓ In the current program, funding can be used for a broad array of projects that improve quality of life, such as air conditioning, furnishings, activities, and community outings.
- **Eliminating Requirement to Administer an Adult Home Advocacy Program**
 - ✓ Within The Justice Center (-230,000) The Adult Home Advocacy program provides legal and non-legal advocacy services and training in residents' rights and self-advocacy to mentally disabled individuals residing in adult homes in New York City and Long Island.
 - ✓ The Adult Home Resident Council program establishes and supports resident councils in order to promote the rights of adult home residents and to support their advocacy activities in their homes and other settings.

Quality of health care

- increase the Nursing Home Quality Pool,
- create regulations that would govern the review and approval of any contracted staffing arrangements between nursing homes and certain staffing agencies, and
- limit Medicaid reimbursement to include only staffing costs related to contractual arrangements that comply with regulatory requirements.

Advocacy

- Contact your legislators to support bills related to quality in nursing homes.
- Ensure safe staffing in hospitals and nursing homes
[A108/S1168](#)
- Ensure that essential visitors cannot be blocked in long term care settings
[A1052/S614](#)



Vaccine

- Create the Citizens Public Health Council to Train Volunteers in Public Health Preparedness to protect themselves and help others against future health emergencies.
- A free citizen public health training program designed by Cornell University, offered online, to educate and certify tens of thousands of citizens of New York all across the state who will then be better prepared to help themselves, their families and co-workers and can be trained to volunteer to help their community for the next health emergency.

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Telehealth & Broadband

- The state will launch a centralized online portal to aggregate all affordable internet programs in one place and gather critical data on consumer experience and remaining service gaps. This data can help inform future programs and ensure New Yorkers get their fair share of federal funding for rural broadband and other digital equity programs.
- Address access for those that do not have access to the technology, or privacy, to take advantage of telehealth: The Governor will provide support to community health providers, libraries, pharmacies, and others to invest in audiovisual devices, remote monitoring devices, physical telehealth spaces, and other technologies to develop more ways to connect underserved communities.
- The state will launch a pilot program, to improve comfort with and access to telehealth for vulnerable patients who lack familiarity with the technology. Community services providers, including non-medical professionals, will be trained to help patients in their home set up accounts, connect to doctors, and address other technological literacy issues.
- The state will require internet providers to provide special pricing (\$15/month) for low income households (to any family that would qualify for free or reduced-price lunch or is at 185 percent of the federal poverty line)
A charitable donor will subsidize costs for New York students who cannot afford \$15 a month for at-home internet during the COVID-19 crisis.

Advocacy

- Make Broadband affordable to all
- State partnership with philanthropy to waive \$15 monthly fee for low income households with students
 - ✓ should expand to all low income households
 - ✓ must include older residents

Moratoriums due to Pandemic

- **Utilities** - Governor will introduce legislation to establish an automatic moratorium on utility disconnections in regions where a state of emergency is declared. The moratoria will be applied to electric, gas, water, telecommunications, cable, and internet services. It also would cover small businesses under 25 employees.
- **Mortgages** – current moratorium on residential foreclosure proceedings until May 1, 2021. To build on that, the Governor will also extend the covered period for residential mortgage relief through at least the end of 2021,
- **Rent** – current moratorium on residential evictions until May 1, 2021, for tenants who have endured COVID-related hardship. The Governor will extend his Executive Order banning fees for late and missed rent payments during the pandemic and allowing tenants to use their security deposit as immediate payment and repay the deposit over time, keeping those protections in place through May 1.



STAR property tax

Would end the ability of individuals currently receiving the Basic STAR Exemption from switching to the Enhanced STAR exemption program:

Currently anyone entering the STAR program must join the STAR credit program, but it allows those who were receiving the STAR exemption to stay in the exemption program, and this includes the ability to switch from the Basic STAR exemption to the Enhanced STAR exemption (seniors.)

Effective in 2021, owners currently in the Basic STAR Exemption Program who are newly-qualified for the Enhanced STAR Program would **only** be able to register for the Enhanced STAR Credit Program.

Seniors currently receiving the Enhanced STAR exemption would not be impacted, and would be allowed to remain in the exemption program.

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Advocacy

- Remind legislators that not all older residents must file NYS income taxes, and requiring them to do so is a burden.
- The STAR credit on real property taxes must stay in place for new enrollees in the Enhanced STAR, so they get a credit on their property taxes instead of waiting for an income tax credit to use their benefit.

Changing state retiree health benefits to reduce the State's healthcare premium obligations for current and future retirees.

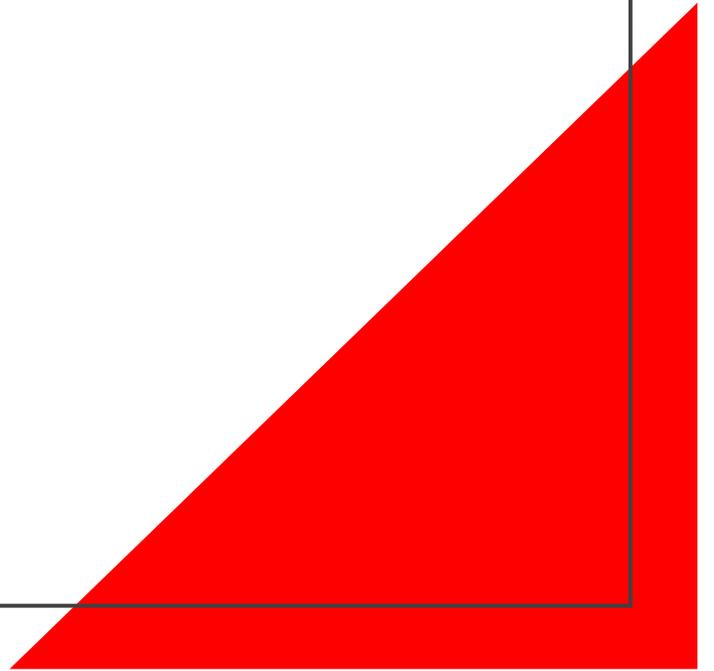
Under current law, all State retirees who vest lifetime health benefits and reach the age of 65 are enrolled in Medicare Part B in lieu of the State's own health insurance. The State then reimburses State retirees for their Medicare Part B costs. Higher-income beneficiaries must pay an adjusted amount for Medicare Part B or Part D. These "Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amounts" (IRMAA) are set by the Social Security Administration and are based on a retiree's gross income. The IRMAA thresholds begin at \$88,000 for a single filer and \$176,000 for a joint filer.

The Budget proposes to:

- end the State's practice of reimbursing IRMAA fees for State retirees.
- limit reimbursement of Medicare Part B premium paid to retirees to an amount equal to 2021's standard Medicare premium charge, which is currently \$148.50.
- create a sliding scale of retiree health coverage based on years of service.
Currently, the State's share of healthcare costs is the same whether an employee retires after 10 years of service or 30 years. Under this proposal a sliding scale would be implemented so that only employees who retire with 30 years of service would earn retiree healthcare at the current employee rate.
- Would apply to future NYS hires when they retire, affect employees hired on or after October 1, 2021
- Would not apply to police officers, firefighters, uniformed personnel in the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, security hospital treatment assistants or any state employee that has retired with ordinary, accidental, or performance of duty disability.

Advocacy

- Reject these changes in public employee retirement benefits.
- There should be no diminution of health benefits.



Human rights & voting reforms

- Provide Legal Services to Immigrants
- Amend the New York State Human Rights Law to include “citizenship or immigration status” as a protected class to prohibit discrimination on the basis of citizenship or immigration status
- The Governor calls on the legislature to pass an Equal Rights Amendment to the State constitution to ensure that all New Yorkers are equally protected under the law.
- amendment to add sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, ethnicity, national origin, age, and disability as protected classes in the New York Constitution’s anti-discrimination clause
- Open and Modernize Absentee Voting. No-Excuse absentee voting for all New Yorkers.
- Allow more time for voters to request absentee ballots. Require Boards of Elections to process absentee ballot requests faster. Expand Access to Early Voting.

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Next steps

1. Legislative Hearings on the Budget*

- Aging (part of the Human Services hearing)
 - February 9, Starting 9:30 AM
- Health
 - February 25, Starting 9:30 AM

*Watch Budget hearings online:
Live or archived/recorded at
[this link](#)

2. Legislative Office Visits (Virtual)

- Contact your StateWide [Chapter President](#) to get involved, or call StateWide at 518-689-1084

3. [Tune in](#) on Monday, Feb 8 for StateWide's discussion with Assembly Aging Chair Ron Kim

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

