



COMMUNIQUE

CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATOR: TELL YOUR STATE SENATOR & ASSEMBLY MEMBER TO SUPPORT CRUCIAL LEGISLATION NEEDED TO AVOID FUTURE LAYOFFS

By Marci Rosenblum
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Tell Your State Senator & Assembly Member to Support Crucial Legislation Needed to Avoid Future Layoffs

SIGN THE LETTERS AT: www.cwa1180.org/local-home/news/legislators

With New York State and City both dealing with massive debt in large part due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic that has crippled the economy, legislators need to explore other avenues of balancing their budgets than slashing municipal workforces.

There are currently three bills in the state legislature that would bring in much-needed funds through alternative means that would not impact the middle class. **Second Vice President Gerald Brown** said Local 1180 and other unions are lobbying legislators to pass these bills, but support from members and their families, and retirees living in New York State would send a stronger message to Senators and Assembly Members. Labor is asking the legislature to:

- Vote for **Early Retirement Incentive (ERI) legislation** so certain members of the city's three pension systems will be allowed to retire early without a financial penalty.
- Grant the City **borrowing authority** similar to what they gave NYS and the MTA.
- Pass a package of revenue bills, including a **billionaires', millionaires' and ultra-millionaires' tax**, that will generate enough revenue to prevent deep cuts and future layoffs.

Local 1180 has prepopulated letters to every Senator and Assembly Member. Go to the above link, click on the name of your Senator and Assembly Member, type in your name and email, add any additional comments, and click submit.

Members who do not know who their Senator or Assembly Member are can type their address into the "Senator Finder" and "Assembly Member Finder" links and the name and district number of those legislators will show. Then find that district number and/or legislator name in the lists on the website page.

Brown said the whole process should take members only a few minutes but will go a long way toward helping labor get this legislation passed. "We need to send a strong message to our Albany legislators that labor means business and there are other ways of balancing budgets than by laying off municipal workers," he said. ■