



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **NYPIRG STATEMENT ON PASSAGE OF THE ENHANCED MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT BILL IN NY SENATE AND ASSEMBLY**

NYPIRG applauds the overwhelming bipartisan support shown with the passage of the Enhanced Maintenance of Effort bills (S.7259-A/A.10620) in the State Senate and Assembly this session. Both houses understand that it's low past time for the state to adequately invest the public dollars needed to run SUNY and CUNY.

Since 2011, the State has underfunded mandatory costs at CUNY and SUNY, slowly starving the institutions and pushing increased costs onto the wallets of students and their families. Predictable, mandatory cost increases, like rent, electricity, inflation, and staff fringe benefits were left out of the state's funding equation, leaving it to tuition dollars to pick up the slack—tuition has jumped over 35% in that time.

The enhanced MOE bill fixes that equation. The Governor has previously twice vetoed similar bills, translating into a veto of enhanced student services, like expanded course offerings and advisement resources.

“New York promised students and their families that it would provide a steady level of state funding, separate from revenues generated from public college tuition, to fund our public college institutions. That deal has been broken time and time again. Tuition has gone up, and up – including another hike this year – yet state funding for SUNY and CUNY has remained essentially flat. Instead of students’ tuition dollars going toward student support services as promised, effectively tuition dollars are filling in state budget gaps,” said Smitha Varghese, NYPIRG Board of Directors Chairperson and Queens College student.

There was no disagreement in the Legislature that an enhanced maintenance of effort is needed. NYPIRG urges the Governor to sign the bill the day it is delivered to his desk.

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