



NEWS RELEASE

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Contact:

Smitha Varghese, NYPIRG Board Chair

516-232-6591, svarghese@nypirg.org

Emily Skydel, Higher Education Coordinator

914-960-1136, eskydel@nypirg.org

**NYPIRG STATEMENT ON GOVERNOR CUOMO'S VETO
OF ENHANCED MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT BILL (S.1596-A/A.934-A)**

Students enter the holiday season with disappointing news

New York's CUNY and SUNY students are left with disappointing news yet again, as Governor Cuomo vetoed the enhanced Maintenance of Effort bill (S.1596-A/A.934-A) yesterday. Since 2011, the State has underfunded predictable mandatory costs at CUNY and SUNY, slowly starving the institutions and pushing increased costs onto the backs of students and their families—tuition has jumped about 35% in that time.

Predictable, mandatory cost increases, like rent, electricity, and staff fringe benefits were left out of the state's funding equation, leaving it to tuition dollars to pick up the slack. The enhanced MOE bill would have fixed that equation. And the Legislature agreed. The bill passed unanimously in both houses.

The Governor's veto yesterday translates into a veto of enhanced student services, like expanded course offerings and advisement resources, which would increase on-time graduation and student success.

It's high time for the state to invest the public dollars needed to run SUNY and CUNY. There was no disagreement in the Legislature that an enhanced maintenance of effort is needed – we urge the Legislature to override the veto. Additionally, Governor Cuomo must address funding to cover mandatory costs at SUNY and CUNY in his Executive Budget.