

# **AFSCME NY Lobby Day 2010 Program**

## **Welcome**

**Jim Cullen, AFSCME NY Field Services Director**

## **Pledge of Allegiance**

**Denis Hughes, President of NYS AFL-CIO**

## **Legislative Issues Briefing**

**Brian McDonnell, AFSCME NY Legislative & Political Director**

## **Introduction of Guest Speaker**

**By Raglan George - Executive Director District Council 1707**

**Guest Speaker - NYS Comptroller Tom DiNapoli**

## **Introduction of Guest Speaker**

**By Danny Donohue - President of CSEA Local 1000**

**Guest Speaker - NYS Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver**

## **Introduction of Guest Speaker**

**By Lillian Roberts - Executive Director of District Council 37**

**Guest Speaker - NYS Senate Conference Leader John Sampson**

## **Introduction of Keynote Speaker**

**By James Lyman - Executive Director Council 82**

**Keynote Speaker - AFSCME President Gerald McEntee**

## **Closing**

**Jim Cullen, AFSCME NY Field Services Director**

## **Legislative Appointments**

**Members meet Buses on Madison Avenue (across from NYS  
Museum at 3:30)**

**AFSCME**



**We Make New York Happen**



## **STOP THE ASSAULT ON PUBLIC SERVICES!**

Every day, in every community in this state, AFSCME members are touching lives, delivering essential services and making a positive difference.

We are nurses, corrections officers, child care providers, EMTs and sanitation workers. For us, public service is not just a job, it's a calling. At times we are right out front, and at other times we are behind the scenes.

While we work for justice in the workplace, we advocate for prosperity and opportunity for all of America's working families. We not only stand for fairness at the bargaining table — we fight for fairness at the ballot box and in the halls of government.

**Today, we stand together to fight the assault on essential public services.**

**AFSCME SUPPORTS alternative Revenue Proposals over harmful budget cuts to healthcare, education and aid to local governments**

### **END THE STOCK TRANSFER REBATE LOOPHOLE**

- ★ There is a sales tax on stock transfers made by Wall Street firms and traders that is **immediately** given back to the Wall Street broker in the form of a 100% rebate, costing New York \$16 billion in lost revenue a year.
- ★ We are calling on New York State to reduce the Stock Transfer Rebate to 80% and allow our state to keep 20% of the revenue that is generated.
- ★ Just that small adjustment would mean an additional \$3.2 billion in revenue for our state each year.

### **COLLECT TAXES THAT ARE DUE ON CIGARETTES**

- ★ Hundreds of millions of dollars in cigarette taxes in New York aren't being collected because elected officials have been unable or unwilling to collect taxes on tobacco products sold at Native American Retail outlets.
- ★ It is estimated that New York could raise an additional \$1 billion in revenue each year from this uncollected tax.

## **END THE USE OF HIGH-PRICED PRIVATE CONSULTANTS**

- ★ Last year, the state spent \$2.9 billion on consultants and paid them an average annual rate of over \$160,000.
- ★ Consultants charge 62% more than state employees who do the same work, including the cost of state employee benefits.
- ★ Replacing just half of these consultants with state employees would save the state over \$656 million over the next three years.

## **AFSCME STRONGLY OPPOSES continued Privatization, the use of Temporary Workers and the Outsourcing of Public Employee Jobs**

- ★ In the past year, New York has spent billions of dollars on pricey consultants and temporary workers who have charged more to do the same job as public employees. In New York City, contract spending is at \$9.2 billion since 2005.
- ★ The Governor has also proposed to give SUNY and CUNY more “flexibility” and less state oversight and they have proven to be aggressive in contracting our services and hiring temporary workers to replace our members.
- ★ The practice of hiring temporary workers to fill vacancies in state agencies has cost the state over \$60 million in contracts with private temporary employment agencies. Public day care continues to be cut in New York City along with significant cuts in funding to Universal Pre-K centers and Head Start.

## **AFSCME STRONGLY OPPOSES proposals to expand the number of Charter Schools in New York State.**

- ★ Charter Schools have never proven to be more successful than public schools. Many charter school authorizers lack the capacity to adequately oversee charter school operations.
- ★ The Governor and State Legislature should invest in public education and our future, not an unproven and risky plan to expand charter schools.
- ★ The State Legislature should pass legislation that will increase charter school accountability and address the financial impact they have on school districts that are forced to host them.

**AFSCME New York has made many sacrifices to help the state in these hard times. We have been asked to do more with less and we have.**

**TELL ALBANY TO MAKE BETTER CHOICES.**





# OPPOSE

AFSCME New York  
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**The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) strongly opposes proposals to expand the number of Charter Schools in New York State.**

Charter Schools have never proven to be more successful than public schools since their creation was authorized in New York State in 1998. Yet, because charter schools are operated by the private sector and not-for-profit entities and are funded by taking state aid away from public schools, our entire system of public education is suffering.

AFSCME is strongly opposed to expanding Charter Schools in New York State.

A recent U.S. Department of Education study on charter schools found that charter schools were less likely to meet state performance standards than traditional public schools. In addition, the study found that many charter school authorizers lack the capacity to adequately oversee charter school operations. In fact, there have been many high profile situations where test results of charter school students have been dramatically lower. **In New York State, it makes no sense to expand a program that has not shown positive results.**

Recently, Governor Paterson, Mayor Bloomberg and some members of the legislature tried to use Federal "Race to the Top" grant funding as an opportunity to promote charter school expansion. On numerous occasions, they made the claim that unless our state cap on charters was eliminated, the state's application for these funds would be doomed. These claims were absolutely false. The truth is that New York State's public policy regarding charter schools is a minor consideration towards receiving this federal funding. The Governor and State Legislature should invest in public education and our future, not an unproven and risky plan to expand charter schools.

Rather than expand the pool of charter schools, the State Legislature should pass legislation that will increase charter school accountability and address the financial impact they have on school districts that are forced to host them.

Lack of oversight, a less than stellar track record of performance and an ongoing crisis in our public school system are reasons enough to oppose charter school expansion in New York State.

**On behalf of the more than 420,000 public and non-profit workers that AFSCME represents in New York State, we strongly urge opposition to any charter school expansion proposal.**



**American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO**

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**The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) strongly opposes continued Privatization, use of Temporary Workers and the Outsourcing of Public Employee Jobs.**

AFSCME and its affiliates understand the importance of delivering essential public services; it is what our members do every day to keep this state running. A strong public sector is vital to the economy. In spite of this, public services are under serious assault in New York.

Whether it's the hiring of temporary workers, contracting out public work or shutting down public day care centers, AFSCME believes that the state is going down a dangerous road of believing they can do more with less. Not only are these practices more costly in the long run, but they are just plain wrong. Exploiting workers who are bereft of the protections and benefits of unionized public and non-profit employees should never be accepted in a civilized society.

In the past year, New York State has spent billions of dollars on pricey consultants and temporary workers. Reports have shown that the state has paid these private companies 54% more than public employees doing the same exact work. To make matters worse, the Governor defends the use of temporary staff to fill vacancies while for-profit, out-of-state temporary staffing agencies collect over \$60 million from New York taxpayers.

At the same time, Governor Paterson has proposed to give SUNY and CUNY more "flexibility" and less state oversight without requiring any additional transparency or accountability. SUNY and CUNY have proven to be aggressive in contracting out services and hiring temporary workers. Our members are the point of contact for students and their parents; they maintain these campuses and our university police keep them safe. If dedicated public employees continue to be eliminated in public institutions of higher learning, quality will suffer and the safety of students could be jeopardized.

In New York City, contract spending is at \$9.2 billion since 2005. Simply cutting the amount of private contractors in eight city agencies alone would save the city \$130 million dollars. Public day care continues to be cut in boroughs across New York City, with more centers threatened to close every day. There have been significant cuts in funding to Universal Pre-K centers, cuts to Head Start, as well as delays in negotiating contracts for those AFSCME members who deliver vital services to the most vulnerable of our communities. It is a risky and dangerous proposal to take work from unionized, trained public and non-profit employees, especially when the work gets privatized to more expensive consultants with no accountability. Front-line workers lose, and so do the clients and taxpayers.

**On behalf of the more than 420,000 public and non-profit workers that AFSCME represents in New York State, we strongly oppose Privatization, the hiring of temporary workers and the outsourcing of public employee jobs.**



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# SUPPORT

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**The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) strongly supports Alternative Revenue Proposals for New York State over Governor Paterson's harmful budget cuts to Healthcare, Education and Aid to local governments.**

AFSCME and its affiliates are supporting proposals to raise revenue for New York State rather than making another round of harmful budget cuts to healthcare, education and aid to local governments.

**End the Stock Transfer Rebate Loophole:**

Since 1981, New York State has automatically rebated any sales tax on stock transfers made by Wall Street firms and traders. On these transactions, the state sales tax is immediately given right back to the Wall Street broker in the form of a 100% rebate. This rebate costs New York State \$16 billion in lost revenue each year.

The tax was collected by New York State until 1981. The state began phasing out the tax collection in 1979, creating the Stock Transfer rebate loophole two years later. One of the main reasons that our national economy and that of New York State are facing fiscal calamity is due in large part to Wall Street's recklessness. Times are hard for those of us who live on Main Street. On the other hand, the good times are back on Wall Street as clearly evidenced by the return of lavish year-end bonuses. While recognizing the valuable contribution the financial sector brings to New York, Wall Street should lend a hand to New York in these troubled times. We are calling on New York State to temporarily reduce the Stock Transfer Rebate to 80% and allow our state to keep 20% of the revenue that is generated. That would provide New York taxpayers with \$3.2 billion in additional revenue to help our state weather this financial storm.

**Collect Taxes that are Due on Cigarettes:**

Hundreds of millions of dollars in cigarette taxes in New York aren't being collected. Elected officials have been unable or unwilling to collect taxes on tobacco products sold at Native American retail outlets. This torrent of tax-free cigarettes is both a significant public health problem and economic burden to all New Yorkers. A law passed in 2008 allows the state to collect all cigarette taxes before the products reach the reservation. If enforced, it would put an end to this public health embarrassment. Native Americans would be provided coupons to purchase tax free cigarettes while sales to non-native Americans would be subject to the tax. It is estimated that New York could raise \$1 billion in revenue each year from collecting this tax.

**End the use of high-priced private consultants:**

In Fiscal year 2008-09, the state spent \$2.9 billion on consultants and paid them an average annual rate of \$160,719. Consultants charge 62% more than state employees who do the same work, including the cost of state employee benefits. Replacing half of these consultants with state employees would save the state over \$656 million over the next three years.

**On behalf of the more than 420,000 public and non-profit workers that AFSCME represents in New York State, we strongly support alternative revenue proposals before making yet another round of harmful budget cuts to healthcare, education and aid to local governments.**



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