State of the State

2018

GOVERNOR ANDREW M. CUOMO

Excelsior – Ever Upward
2018 State of the State
Governor Andrew M. Cuomo

The Constitution of New York State requires the Governor to deliver an annual message to the Legislature regarding the state of the state. Since taking office, Governor Cuomo has used this opportunity to update New Yorkers on the progress of the State, while laying out a series of priorities for the year. The State of the State proposals are the first step in defining the Governor's agenda in 2018. Additional policies and funding details will be included in the upcoming Governor's Executive Budget, to be released in the coming weeks.

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GOVERNOR ANDREW M. CUOMO

STATE OF THE STATE 2018

This marks the eighth time that I have had the opportunity to discuss the state of our state. The history books will show that thanks to the actions we have taken together, our state has made unprecedented progress. Our economy is stronger today and we are once again the nation's beacon for social progress. Crime is down statewide. We have a cleaner environment, a fairer criminal justice system, and more high school graduates attending college. We have conserved more land, enacted a more progressive tax code, and launched the most ambitious building program in the country.

We have also made historic investments in education, healthcare, and economic development. Upstate New York is no longer treated as the forgotten step child of Albany, and State government is back: reengaged as a vibrant partner in progress in every region of the state.

We have honored the taxpayer and achieved historic fiscal discipline. For the first time in 50 years, thanks to you, we passed 7 timely, responsible budgets. With our 2 percent fiscal discipline, we actually did more with less. And it's working. Every New Yorker's tax rate is lower today than when I took office. We have the highest credit rating in 40 years, unemployment is down from 8.3 percent to 4.7 percent, and down in every single region of the state. Today New York State has 8.1 million private sector jobs—the highest number of jobs in history.

We have also accomplished something else. We have vindicated the promise of progressive government. Progressive government requires citizen confidence and management competence. Progressive leaders must be dreamers and doers; visionaries and achievers.

We followed FDR's progressive philosophy. Real change for real people in real time. It was also my father's philosophy: he called himself a "pragmatic progressive," restoring confidence in government by actually delivering progressive accomplishments.

Consider what we have achieved together: marriage equality, paid family leave, $15 minimum wage, free college tuition, gun safety, the climate coalition, and ambitious MWBE targets.

We are once again the nation's vanguard for social progress. We should feel confident in our ability as a government to do what many believe can't be done.

And we will need that confidence because 2018 may be the toughest year New York has faced in modern history. We have unprecedented challenges ahead on every level. This moment in time requires stark candor and bold action. We are facing a three front war.

First, we have the old challenges of discrimination and sexism that have plagued society for years but have recently been exposed for their prevalence and virulence. Enlightened government must seize the moment to attack these social diseases that are long institutionalized and culturalized.

Second, we face new challenges threatening our safety and quality of life: terrorism, climate change, environmental threats, including to our drinking water,

and the growing opioid epidemic, a scourge across our state, that claimed more than 3,000 lives last year.

And lastly, we have federal and economic challenges never experienced before. They threaten the essence of our economy. In the short term, we face a $4 billion deficit and $2 billion in cuts in federal aid. Even more challenging, in the long term our divisive federal government has hurt our state's economic position by taxing our state and local taxes, making us less competitive and helping other states at our expense.

While we are working for economic and social progress our federal government is working to roll back New York's position as a leading economy in the country; to roll back a woman's right to choose; to roll back environmental protection; to roll back health care for the poor; to roll back access to college loans; to roll back LGBTQ rights; to roll back labor's right to organize; to roll back our historic tax cuts; and – with DACA – to roll back an immigrant child's opportunity to be an American. We cannot and we must not let that happen.

Let us start our agenda by addressing the first challenge: the old, ugly, persistent problems of sexism, racism and homelessness. The most important element of New York's social progress agenda is equality: guaranteed by the constitution and our belief in human rights. Our country is finally taking a long look in the mirror as to how we treat women and we are disgusted with what we see, and we should be.

Our challenge is to turn society's revulsion into reform. Carpe diem—to seize the day—to learn, to grow, and to change. As we did with gun violence after Sandy Hook, as we did with sexual assault on campuses, let New York lead the way once again.

Let New York State stand and say we are not the state of denial. We acknowledge the longstanding bias and abuse against women, and New York says it stops, it stops here, and it stops now.

We must also assure the people of our state that our democratic foundation, our justice system, is in fact, just. We have made many reforms, but we have more to do.

The truth is that our Lady Justice is still not color blind and her scales are still not balanced. Our jails are filled with people that should not be incarcerated. Punishment is supposed to be imposed when one is found guilty. We need bail reform. The blunt ugly reality is that our system is too often biased against the poor—if you can make bail you are set free—if you are too poor to make bail you are punished.

We also need discovery reform and speedy trial reform. We need to move cases faster. Trial parts must operate from 9 to 5 and a judge's performance must be an essential criterion in advancement. To compound this injustice, people are held in facilities and under conditions that we would condemn as human rights violations if they were occurring in another country.

Our tolerance for the ongoing injustice is repugnant to our position as the progressive capital of the nation. Some jails in our state have long records of violations that continue for years.

We must act with a new urgency to safeguard the rights of all New Yorkers—too long neglected. It is a

state-wide problem. I am directing the State Corrections Commission to develop corrective action plans or closure orders on jails that are out of compliance.

As Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "Justice too long delayed is justice denied," and that is not our New York. Homelessness is on the rise in our cities and worse than ever before. It pains me personally to acknowledge this reality. I began my public work at 26 running a not-for-profit to help homeless families. It became the largest in the nation. In 1992 I headed Mayor David Dinkins' Homeless Commission.

When I was HUD Secretary we completed President Bill Clinton's plan to solve homelessness. We always believed this was a momentary problem—an anomaly—this could not go on. In many places and in New York there was much progress. But now the problem has come back with a vengeance.

And looking forward with the federal government threatening to cut funding for homeless people, it will only get worse. We must act.

The most difficult issue is homeless people on the streets. The ultimate need is affordable housing and supportive housing and our budget has an historic state commitment in these areas.

But it is also an issue of our philosophy and expectations. We have grown too accepting. Remember, at one time there were no homeless people on the streets. What does it say about us—as a society—that we now pass men and women lying on the streets with the same ease that we pass light poles and mailboxes?

It has become part of our new normal. But it's abnormal and it's wrong. It is our obligation as a caring people—a compassionate society—to reach out, to provide whatever social services or address whatever needs the individual presents. It is our job.

With all we have to do as a government, it is more important than ever that we have the public trust. We have done much on ethics reform, but we must do more.

Step two in our agenda is to focus on the new problems—rising terrorism, environmental change, the opioid crisis, the federal threat to the labor movement,

the distortion and manipulation of our elections by big donors, foreign money and social media advertising, and the alienation of our citizens.

We start with protecting the environment and recognizing the growing threats to our drinking water. The growing concentration of chemicals and pollution in some areas is literally poisoning the water. In the beautiful lakes upstate, toxic algae is spreading. On Long Island, the Grumman plume carries 30 years of industrial stains and contaminants.

We must attack this growing health threat because we will not poison our children—no more procrastination—we will do it this year. Nationwide we are witnessing a shocking phenomenon—we are dying younger. Last year, life expectancy for Americans declined for the second year in a row – the first time this has happened in 50 years.

The reason? A staggering 21 percent increase in drug overdoses. For Americans under 50 years old, drug overdoses, mostly opioid-related, are the leading cause of death. We must face it head on. We are committed to

a comprehensive solution: More prevention. More education. More enforcement. More treatment.

But we also want to advance a new approach—the ultimate follow-the-supply chain strategy. Big corporations may own Washington but they don't own New York.

The opioid crisis was manufactured—literally and figuratively. We will make the distributors pay for their illegal and reprehensible conduct. And we will stop the spread of opioids because too many innocent lives have been lost.

A case before Washington's Supreme Court seeks to effectively end public labor unions. We will await the decision in the Janus case but we must do all in our power to protect collective bargaining, the right to organize, and preserve workers' rights.

We believe labor unions have built the middle class and we are proud New York State has the highest percentage of union workers in the country. Today we pledge that we stand shoulder to shoulder with our union brothers and sisters to fight this threat.

At this time of citizen alienation and outrage—the best thing we can do is let people know that their voice is heard—that they matter and they can and should vote—we should make it easy, not hard, with same day registration, no fault absentee ballots, and early voting.

We should close the LLC loophole and open up the electoral process with public financing, and not our current system that has public financing but private loopholes: a true public financing system in which the exception does not swallow the rule.

Social media has revolutionized our elections. While we respect the freedom of the internet, it cannot subvert the law. Foreign countries like Russia and big anonymous donors cannot jeopardize our democracy.

Social media must disclose who or what pays for political advertising because sunlight is still the best disinfectant. Disclosure must apply to social media the same way that it applies to a newspaper ad or a TV ad or a radio ad. Anything else is a perversion of the law and an affront to democracy.

Let's stop this abuse and while Washington dithers let New York lead the way. Terrorism is morphing in unpredictable ways. The internet provides easy access to ISIS instruction manuals and lone wolves are a new threat. The internet companies must search their hearts and minds to determine their obligation to public safety when they know who is visiting terrorist sites and they know who is learning how to kill Americans.

In the meantime, we must protect ourselves with more and better trained police and state of the art surveillance equipment. The state owns many of the places of potential vulnerability, our bridges, tunnels, trains, buses and airports, our transit hubs like Penn Station and Grand Central. Our transportation system must be better protected – now. And we will do just that.

Our third challenge is the greatest—the budgetary and economic challenges we face short term and long term compounded by the federal assault on New York. President Ford may have metaphorically told New York to drop dead in 1975, but this federal

government is the most hostile and aggressive towards New York in history. It has shot an arrow aimed at New York's economic heart.

We will start the year with a $4 billion deficit, compounded by $2 billion in federal cuts primarily to health care. Even worse, the federal tax bill reshapes the nation's economy: their tax plan is trickle down on steroids. It didn't work in the 1980s and it won't work now. The rich will get richer, I have no doubt. But if the federal government really wanted to help workers, the law would have mandated that the corporations' tax windfall go to pay workers higher wages. It didn't. The omission speaks volumes.

At the same time, Washington has launched an all-out direct attack on New York State's economic future by eliminating full deductibility of state and local taxes. This effectively raises middle class and working families' property tax 20 to 25 percent. New York is already the number one donor state in the nation paying Washington $48 billion more than we get back. No state contributes more to the federal government and gets back less—than

New York. On top of that injustice, Washington's tax plan now uses New York and California as piggybanks to finance tax cuts for Republican states. New York will pay an additional $14 billion on top of the $48 billion we currently pay.

They changed the old adage robbing Peter to pay Paul—they are now robbing the blue states to pay for the red states. It is crass, ugly, divisive, partisan legislating. It is an economic Civil War. We must take dramatic action to save ourselves and preserve our state's economy.

It is an issue of New York State's economic viability. It is a question of preserving the strength of New York's economy or giving other states a structural competitive advantage. I have no doubt that we can overcome this assault working together.

In the meantime, we must do a fiscal plan for this year. The way forward in this budget is to continue on the path that we have followed to move this state forward. Our philosophy rests on two pillars: economic growth and social progress.

We must maintain our New York priorities: we must continue our historic investment in public education, and expand 3 and 4-year-old Pre K, after school and computer sciences, because our greatest asset is our young people and everything we do is for their future.

We must address education funding inequities and dedicate more of our state school aid to poorer districts.

We must continue our investment in health care. We must preserve the Medicaid program and CHIP—health insurance for poor children— because in New York health care is not just for the rich and well off—it is a human right.

We must continue to be the nation's leader in building new infrastructure to grow our economy. We are ahead of every other state—and we must increase our advantage.

And we must continue our ground breaking social progress: to advance equality and opportunity for all, because we are all immigrants and we are all equal under

the laws of New York and in the eyes of God. We can and must achieve these goals, and we will.

On the economy, our economic focus remains on helping our working men and women by continuing our Middle Class Recovery Act. We start by giving them immediate relief, not with words but with action, and cutting taxes for the middle class. While the federal government is making college less affordable, we must expand our Excelsior free college program that helps the children of our anxious middle class and tells every child in New York their dreams can be realized and their future can be brighter. And in the same spirit we must include our young new immigrants and pass the Dream Act.

We must continue to attack the highest tax burden in the state—not a state tax but the cost of local governments—our local property tax. Our property tax has long been an obstacle to growth, but today—with the federal SALT provision—it is an economic cancer.

We must increase the efforts by local governments to reduce costs. It is politically difficult for

them I know, but it is now a matter of economic survival. We know it can be done.

We must continue to attract and create the jobs of tomorrow and we must do it today. The New York difference is we don't promise it or propose it or talk about it—we do it. Good government is about action.

We must continue to exercise our New York muscle and imagination—the New York spirit that built the tallest buildings and longest bridges—that defied gravity, pessimism and the naysayers. We have proven we can do it and do it well.

Now, we must do more. We must accelerate the modernization of our airports in New York City and across upstate. We must accelerate our air train to LaGuardia. We must open up our transportation deserts and have the Port Authority and the MTA consider relocating the Red Hook marine terminal and explore whether Red Hook has enough transportation alternatives and, if not, to study the possibility of a new subway line to stimulate Red Hook's community based development.

We will accelerate the Long Island Rail Road modernization. It is long overdue and is critical to the regional economy. In 2018, as part of our $6.6 billion LIRR transformation plan, we will complete the double track on the Ronkonkoma line—16 months ahead of schedule—and we will begin construction of the third track along the Main Line, which carries 40 percent of LIRR riders. Altogether there are 100 projects, and they will transform the quality of life on Long Island.

A new economy is growing across Upstate and we cannot allow the federal tax plan to derail our progress.

The Regional Economic Development Councils have done great work and 6,300 economic development projects are under way. Every region has seen a drop in unemployment and new economic growth.

This year we will start by continuing the REDCs and also bringing the advantages of cashless tolling to our New York State Thruway system – making it faster and cleaner. We have new projects like Roc the Riverway in Rochester that will transform the Genesee waterfront to a destination center.

In the Southern Tier we will continue our development of the hemp industry by partnering on a new hemp processing facility. In Syracuse we will do a DEIS for Route 81 as a tunnel or a community grid, and proceed on the inland port at Dewitt.

The I Love NY campaign revealed a great secret to the world—the beauty and history of our state. Since 2011, our $200 million tourism investment has seen our annual tourism spending increase by $18 billion. It's an investment paying dividends and we should double down.

I propose new modernization investments in Belleayre, Gore, and Whiteface mountains to make them first-rate ski resorts, a new history trail leading to Olana, and expediting a new exposition center—the largest in the Northeast—in Syracuse. It's about jobs, jobs and jobs, and tourism means jobs for upstate New York.

While our federal government is deconstructing our National Parks, we believe our state parks are a treasure. This year we will invest in our upstate park system, continue our rebirth of Jones Beach and open the

largest state park in New York City, 407-acres on Jamaica Bay.

The Hudson River Park in New York City was started by my father and Mayor Dinkins—it was to be finished in 2003. It was derailed, but we settled ongoing disputes between the parties and will now have a full completion plan from Battery Park City to 59th Street. We should finalize this amazing vision this year and complete Manhattan's West Side.

This is an ambitious agenda, but these are challenging times ahead. And we must rise to the challenge. We face a $4 billion deficit, economic challenges, social wrongs and a federal assault.

The small-minded and the naysayers will forecast gloom and doom. Negativity is dominant in today's political environment. But this is New York and that is not the New York way. The New York way is to make the seemingly impossible—possible.

Tell us we can't do it, and you only get us excited to show you how we can. We have done it time and time again.

We have the track record to prove it—we have accomplished more than any state government in modern history.

In the spirit of candor demanded by the times, I tell you my greatest fear for us is not the economics or the federal assault—we can and will handle that—my greatest fear is the division spreading among our people. We have seen more anti-Semitism, more racial attacks and more religious tensions than in decades.

We understand the emotions. This country is searching its way through a challenging and confusing period. From the economy, from terrorism, from Mother Nature's continuous bombardment, from the unnerving constant change in society.

Anxiety is at a fever pitch. And now there is a negative synergy—a sense that we are out of control and that breeds a fear, and that fear breeds an anger, and that anger breeds a division—and that division makes us smaller and weaker. And our federal government is furthering the divisions. They govern by dividing—winners and losers, rich vs. middle class vs. poor, black

vs. white, red states vs. blue states, documented vs. undocumented, gay vs. straight, Muslims vs. Jews vs. Christians.

And much harm has been done. As the greatest Republican President Abraham Lincoln said, "A house divided against itself cannot stand." But our obligation as leaders is not just to say what we are against but also what we support. Not just to criticize—but to offer an alternative.

And we do. New York follows a different path. New York believes that there is no future built through division, but only through unity. The New York way is to believe diversity is not a liability—but the exact opposite —that diversity is our greatest asset. We celebrate it.

The New York way is that tolerance is expected from all, inclusion is our operating principle, and forging community is the ultimate goal. 18 million New Yorkers from 190 countries—all immigrants, all newcomers, virtually all poor and in search of opportunity. All invited here to join the New York family by the same invitation extended by the great Lady in the Harbor. It is not a new

principle. It's not a Democratic or Republican idea, nor is it even uniquely New York. It is an idea proven over 240 years. It is the nation's founding premise and enduring promise.

It is our Founding Father's essential wisdom, summed up in three word: E Pluribus Unum – "Out of Many One." So fundamental to the American idea that in 1782 they inscribed the words on the Great Seal of the United States. And that seal and those words are on the flag that has hung in the Oval Office every day since. Right behind President Trump's desk. To find the way forward, the President only needs to turn around.

That is the true formula for what makes America great. That is the simple yet profound idea that made America the greatest country on the globe, and New York was the laboratory. We proved that it worked in 1782, and we prove that it still works today.

This year, let us show that at times of trouble and anxiety, the premise that made America great still guides us. That we do not seek to raise ourselves by pulling

another down, but rather believe we succeed by raising each other up.

The New York way is True North and our True North is to follow the credo on our great Seal of the State of New York—always reach higher, always aspire to be better, always point up—Excelsior.

1. UPHOLDING THE NEW YORK PROMISE

Part 1. Advancing the Women's Agenda

New York has a long and proud legacy of leading the way to advance women's rights. From the birth of the women's rights movement at Seneca Falls to the recent passage of the most comprehensive Paid Family Leave policy in the nation, New York continues to champion women's rights and break down barriers to equality. Governor Cuomo knows that when women succeed, New York succeeds, and he has made historic achievements to advance women's equality, including the Women's Equality Agenda, a series of new laws aimed at achieving pay equity, strengthening human trafficking laws, protecting domestic violence victims and ending pregnancy discrimination in the workplace.

In addition, Governor Cuomo launched the Enough is Enough initiative, the nation's most aggressive

policy to combat sexual assault on college campuses, signed two executive orders ensuring pay equity by State employers and contractors and improved access to breast cancer screening by expanding screening hours at hospitals and clinics, removing insurance barriers, and offering paid leave for screenings to all public employees.

In 2017, in celebration of the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage in New York State, Governor Cuomo established the New York State Council on Women and Girls to recognize and advance women's rights within our State. The Council provides a coordinated State response to issues that particularly impact the lives of women and girls, focusing on nine areas of impact:

- Education
- Economic Opportunity
- Workforce Equity
- Leadership
- Health Care
- Child Care
- Safety

- STEM
- Intersectionality

The Council is composed of the Commissioners and Leaders of our State agencies, who are tasked with ensuring that every future policy and program enacted takes into consideration the rights of women and girls in New York State. In addition, a Steering Committee comprises top-level leaders from foundations, academia, non-profits, the media and the private sector. Including the priorities below, the Governor will be making additional proposals in the coming weeks based on the Council's findings in order to create opportunity for women to succeed in every area: work, health, safety, education and family life

Many of the policies and laws that Governor Cuomo already set in motion to advance women's equality and opportunity go into effect in 2018, including Paid Family Leave, a raised minimum wage and regulations to protect access to contraception no matter what happens at the federal level. In 2018, we will build on our progress. We will advance equality for women

and protect our rights against federal attempts to stall and undermine us.

Proposal: Combat Sexual Harassment in the Workplace

In the past few months, rampant allegations of sexual harassment and misconduct against executives, celebrities and politicians have come to light, seeking justice against those who leveraged their positions of power and prominence for sexual gain. This pervasive abuse tears at the fabric of society and violates, not only the personal, but the public trust. Sexual harassment afflicts people of every gender, race, age and class, and there must be zero tolerance for sexual harassment in any workplace, including State and local government. The Governor proposes a multi-pronged agenda that targets sexual harassment in the workplace. Governor Cuomo will advance legislation to prevent taxpayer funds from being used for settlements against individuals relating to sexual assault or harassment and to ensure that individual harassers are held accountable.

To further ensure accountability, the Governor proposes a uniform code of sexual harassment policies binding on all branches of state and local government and an independent and anonymous whistleblower process to help individuals to communicate complaints across state and local government without fear of retribution or consequence. To help bring justice to victims of sexual harassment, Governor Cuomo also proposes legislation that would void forced arbitration policies or clauses in employee contracts that prevent sexual harassment cases from consideration in law enforcement investigation and court trials.

To combat the culture of silence that too often shields abusers from accountability, Governor Cuomo will take a series of actions to promote transparency while simultaneously protecting the identity and privacy of those who are harassed. Governor Cuomo will propose legislation to prohibit confidentiality agreements relating to sexual assault or harassment for all public entities and branches of government—State and local—unless it is the express preference of the victim. In

addition, Governor Cuomo proposes mandatory annual reporting for any companies that do business with the State that will require disclosure of the number of sexual harassment violations and nondisclosure agreements executed by that company. These measures will ensure that all employees are provided with a safer work environment, to which they are all entitled.

Proposal: Codify Roe v. Wade into State Law and Constitution

New York has a proud history of being the progressive capital of the country and advancing the empowerment of women. As part of his commitment to uphold that legacy, Governor Cuomo has fought for women to have access to the reproductive health services they need, when they need them, including contraception and abortion. In the face of disruptive threats from the federal government, the Governor has taken action to protect access to reproductive health services by requiring health insurers to cover contraceptive drugs and devices and all medically-

necessary abortion services without co-pays, coinsurance, or deductibles.

For years, Governor Cuomo has pushed to codify the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision and subsequent rulings into state law to secure women's access to reproductive health options. This year, the Governor will again call for the passage of legislation to ensure the right of women to make personal health care decisions to protect their health in addition to their life and ensure that health care professionals can provide these crucial services without fear of criminal penalty. The Governor will also continue to champion a constitutional amendment to codify these protections into the state constitution.

Today, as there is a true assault and attempt to roll back access to all reproductive health care and undermine women's abilities to control their own health decisions, there has never been a more critical time for protecting access to reproductive health services. The fundamental right to bodily integrity must be respected

and the Governor will fight to protect women's reproductive health care in New York.

Proposal: Pass the Comprehensive Contraceptive Coverage Act

One of the greatest impediments to gender equality is the inability to make reproductive health decisions or decide when and if to become a parent.[1] Contraception has been a critical tool for women to gain economic and social independence. The use, accessibility and availability of contraception also reduces the rate of unintended pregnancy and abortion.[2]

As the federal government rolls back access to reproductive health care, the State of New York will continue to protect those rights. New York will not force teenagers to become parents because of a lack of access to contraception and will not make families struggle with family planning options that are, at best, antiquated. Governor Cuomo has long fought to protect access to reproductive health care for all New Yorkers, including

contraception and abortion, and he will continue to fight for these essential rights.

In 2017, Governor Cuomo fought to uphold the reproductive health protections of the Affordable Care Act, irrespective of federal action, by enacting regulations that ensured access to cost-free contraception and medically necessary abortion. In 2018, the Governor will advance a program bill to codify access to contraception, including emergency contraception, into New York State law, by passing the Comprehensive Contraceptive Coverage Act.

Proposal: Remove Firearms from Domestic Abusers

Under Governor Cuomo, New York has passed the strongest gun safety laws in the nation. Still, gaps remain in New York's laws, permitting domestic abusers to retain certain types of firearms even after orders of protection and criminal convictions have been obtained. The continued possession of firearms by these individuals is an issue closely tied to gun violence and

gun violence deaths. In nine of the 10 deadliest mass shootings in United States history, including Las Vegas and Sutherland Springs, the shooter had an existing record of committing violence against women, threatening violence against women, or openly disparaging women. The evidence is clear: when a gun is involved in a domestic violence situation, the threat of death increases by 500 percent.[3]

Given the inextricable link between domestic violence and lethal gun violence, Governor Cuomo is closing loopholes in our legislative framework so that all types of firearms are removed from domestic violence perpetrators. New York law prohibits the possession of firearms for individuals convicted of felony or "serious" offenses, but this excludes certain misdemeanor offenses involving domestic violence. To ensure that no domestic abuser continues to possess a firearm, the Governor will advance legislation to update the list of prohibited offenses to include those domestic violence misdemeanors which are shockingly absent from current law.

Under existing New York law, possession of handguns can be prohibited by judges under certain circumstances including the issuance of an order of protection or a conviction for a felony or "serious" offense conviction. While sensible and well-intentioned, the law fails to address possession of long guns such as rifles and shotguns. The proposed legislation will correct this by mandating that rifles and shotguns are surrendered to law enforcement when handguns are surrendered, such as in the cases of domestic violence convictions and the issuance of orders of protection. This legislation targets the unquestionable relationship between domestic violence and gun violence. It will serve the dual purpose of protecting future potential victims of domestic violence—and the public at large.

Proposal: End Sextortion and Revenge Porn

Governor Cuomo has been a staunch advocate for ending sexual violence and exploitation in New York throughout his administration. In 2015, the Governor

signed the "Enough is Enough" legislation to combat sexual assault on college campuses. He also directed the State Police to create a special unit focused on campus sexual assault cases to ensure these cases have the appropriate investigatory resources behind them. However, advances in technology and widespread use of social media have enabled new forms of sexual exploitation and targeted harm that are not sufficiently addressed by existing law. Sextortion is a type of exploitation that involves either coercion to extort sexual acts from the victim, or the use of sexual images or videos as a form of blackmail to force the victim to participate in sexual acts, while revenge porn is the non-consensual dissemination of sexually explicit images or videos intended to harm another.

According to a 2016 Brookings Institute report, 71 percent of the sextortion cases studied involved victims under the age of 18 with the vast majority being female.[4] Most sextortion cases involve social media manipulation—where the perpetrator deceives the victim into sending compromising pictures and, then,

coerces them for additional material. This manipulation is particularly prevalent with underage victims, occurring in 91 percent of their cases. Unfortunately, reports of these crimes are dramatically rising. There was a 90 percent increase in reported sextortion between 2014 and 2015.[5] These crimes traumatize their victims and cause serious harm, with nearly a quarter of sextortion victims seeking physical or mental health services.[6]

To end this disturbing form of sexual exploitation, Governor Cuomo proposes a two-pronged approach that will criminalize disclosing or threatening to disclose sexually compromising images or videos with the intent to cause material harm to the victim's mental or emotional health or to compel the victim to undertake some sexual act; and criminalize compelling a person to expose him or herself or engage in sexual conduct by threatening to harm the victim's health, safety, business, career, financial condition, reputation or personal relationships. This new legislation will create the

following crimes, which will also require registration as a sex offender:

- **Unlawful Publication of Sexual Images:** With intent to cause material harm to mental or emotional health, a person (1) disseminates images of intimate sexual nature; or (2) compels another to engage in conduct by threatening to disseminate images of an intimate sexual nature. This will be a class A misdemeanor; punishable by up to one year in jail or three years of probation.
- **Sexual Extortion in the 3rd Degree:** A person compels or induces another person to expose his or her sexual or intimate parts or engage in sexual conduct by instilling a fear in him or her that, if the demand is not complied with, the actor will perform an act intended to harm the person, or another person, with respect to his or her health, safety, business, career, financial condition, reputation or personal relationships. This will be a class E Felony; punishable by up to four years in prison.

- **Sexual Extortion in the 2nd Degree:** Same as above but the victim is under 17-years-old. This will be a class D Felony; punishable by up to seven years in prison.
- **Sexual Extortion in the 1st Degree:** Same as above but the victim is under 15-years-old. This will be a class C Felony; punishable by up to fifteen years in prison.

Governor Cuomo is taking immediate actions to combat this rising and disturbing form of crime. Through these actions, New York State will be better positioned to protect individuals from sexual extortion and to hold the deplorable individuals who engage in these practices accountable for their actions.

Proposal: Call on the New York State Common Retirement Fund to Invest in Companies with Women and Minority Leadership

Governor Cuomo has taken bold action to support women and minorities in achieving representative participation in the economy. New York State's Minority

and Women Business Enterprises Program has seen dramatic increases in participation due to the Governor's goal of 30 percent MWBE State contract utilization—the highest goal of any state in the nation.

The Governor has overseen the creation of a nation-leading menu of programs and initiatives to encourage MWBEs to become certified and to provide them with the technical tools and financial support needed to compete for and win larger contracts, enter new markets and create new well-paying jobs. Notwithstanding the significant progress in State contracting, women and minorities remain severely underrepresented in business ownership, in management roles and on corporate boards. For example, while women make up over half of the U.S. population and nearly half of the corporate workforce, they make up only about 20 percent of corporate boards.[7]

To further address these imbalances, in 2018, Governor Cuomo will call for the New York Common Retirement Fund to invest in companies with adequate

female and minority representation in their management and on their boards of directors. The Governor will work with Comptroller DiNapoli to put in place processes and standards to systematically invest in companies that invest in women and minority leadership. A company cannot have good management, by definition, if that management is not representative of its employees, its customers, and society more broadly.

Proposal: Reauthorize MWBE Program Legislation and Expand the MWBE Program to All State-Funded Contracts

Since taking office in 2011, Governor Cuomo has transformed the State's Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprise Program. In 2014, the Governor increased the MWBE goal for State contracting from 20 to 30 percent—the highest in the nation. Since 2011, state-certified MWBEs have won more than $10.4 billion in State contracts and the State has certified more than 6,600 MWBEs and re-certified more than 4,700 MWBEs.

In the last two years alone, the State has certified over 2,100 MWBEs.

In 2017, the Governor released the New York State 2016 Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Disparity Study (Study), which evaluated the participation of MWBEs in State contracts from April 1, 2010 through March 31, 2015. The Study finds statistically-significant evidence of underutilization of MWBEs in State contracting in both the prime contract and subcontract levels in the construction, construction-related services, non-construction related services and commodities industries. The Study, therefore, provided ample support to continue the MWBE program and expand upon the State's ongoing efforts to increase access, resources, and business opportunities for the MWBE community. Based upon the Study findings and recommendations, the Governor will propose legislation that will seek the reauthorization of the program, which is due to expire this year, and increase the participation of minority and women-owned businesses in all levels of

State contracting—both prime contractors and subcontractors.

In order to continue building on this promise, Governor Cuomo will also propose legislation during the 2017 session that will expand the MWBE Program to more contracts entirely funded by the State. Under current State law, MWBE goals only apply to State-funded contracts issued by State agencies and authorities, but do not attach to contracts issued by localities and other entities which are funded by the State. The legislation will require MWBE goals on State funds used for contracting purposes on the local level. The proposed changes to authorizing legislation and expansion to include all State-funded contracts will leverage the largest pool of State funding in history to combat systemic discrimination and create new opportunities for MWBE participation at every level. In doing so, the State will further its goal to help minority and women business owners overcome entrenched barriers to success.

Part 2. Creating A Safer, Smarter and Fairer Criminal Justice System

Governor Cuomo has advanced significant criminal justice reforms throughout his time in office, improving every stage of the justice system from arrest to community re-entry. Under his leadership, the State has invested more than $25 million each year in approximately 165 community-based alternatives to incarceration programs, which include rehabilitative therapies such as drug, alcohol, and mental illness treatment. In 2014, the Governor created the Council on Community Re-Entry and Reintegration to address the challenges formerly incarcerated individuals face upon reentering society and advise the administration on methods to improve re-entry and reduce recidivism. Three major reforms were passed this past year, including:

- Raising the age of criminal responsibility in New York State to 18 years of age;
- Extending the landmark *Hurrell-Harring* settlement's indigent criminal defense reforms to

the entire State, becoming the first state in the nation to overhaul its public defense system in such a drastic manner; and

- Requiring law enforcement to video-record interrogations for serious offenses and allowing properly-conducted witness identification into evidence at trial.

Proposal: Reform the Criminal Justice System: Bail, Speedy Trial, Civil Asset Forfeiture and Re-Entry

One of the central challenges facing New York's criminal justice system is an unnecessary and unjust use of pretrial confinement for individuals who have not been convicted of any crime. Making matters even worse, we require these individuals to pay money to obtain their freedom, disproportionately punishing those of limited means. This is not justice. This year, Governor Cuomo will advance an aggressive criminal justice reform agenda to address this and other challenges facing the criminal justice system.

- **Bail Reform**: New York's jails are currently filled with an alarming majority of individuals who have not been convicted of any crime and are simply waiting for their day in court. In fact, in New York City, more than 75 percent of people held in jail last year were pretrial defendants.[8] Throughout the rest of the State in 2016, more than 60 percent of people were held pretrial.[9] This is unacceptable and blind to justice. To address this, the Governor will advance legislation to accomplish the following:
    - First, the law will create a presumption that people facing misdemeanor and non-violent felony charges must be released, and they must be released without cash bail. People will be released either on their own recognizance or with non-monetary conditions imposed by the court, such as reporting to a pretrial services agency.
    - Second, monetary bail would be permitted, but not required, in remaining

cases, after an individualized assessment of the nature of the case and the defendant's personal and financial circumstances. If a judge does set bail, the court must give the defendant a choice between cash or bail industry bonds and an alternative form of bail that the judge will set, such as an unsecured or partially secured bond.

- Third, in cases involving domestic violence or other serious violence, or if, while on pretrial release, a defendant commits a crime or willfully fails to come to court, a judge could order a defendant to be held in jail pretrial if the court finds, after due process, that the defendant poses a high risk of not returning to court or poses a current threat to the physical safety of a reasonably identifiable person or persons.

- **Discovery Reform:** New York is one of only 10 states that enables prosecutors to withhold basic

evidence until the actual day a trial begins. Even worse, New York has the distinction of standing alongside only three other states—Louisiana, South Carolina, and Wyoming—as having the nation's most restrictive discovery rules.

- Under Governor Cuomo's plan, prosecutors and the defense will have to share information in a multi-stage time frame before a trial takes place. This will include disclosure of evidence and information favorable to the defense; intended exhibits, expert opinion evidence, witnesses' criminal history information, and search warrant information will be made available to defendants in a timely and consistent manner. Doing so ensures attorneys have the tools necessary to adequately represent their clients.

- Additionally, along with an accelerated disclosure of witness information, this plan will provide numerous special procedures to ensure the safety of those witnesses and the integrity of the judicial process.

- **Speedy Trial Reform:** The Sixth Amendment to the United States Constitution and State law guarantees all citizens accused of a crime have the right to a speedy and public trial. Too often, however, defendants are held in custody, pre-trial, for excessive periods of time and courts are overburdened with the number of pending criminal cases. This leads to backlogs that disrupt the justice system. The Governor will introduce legislation to codify the waiver process, require court reviews of statements of readiness, and prevent undue delay by last-minute motion practice. These reforms will ensure that accused individuals proceed through the justice system in

a streamlined and efficient manner that does not overburden them, financially and socially.

- **Civil Asset Forfeiture Reform:** Civil asset forfeiture is a mechanism by which state and federal government can seize people's property, without having to convict them of a crime. One of the core principles of America's justice system is that an individual is innocent until proven guilty. Contrary to this principle, civil asset forfeiture, in practice, allows an individual's property to be seized until the owner proves his or her innocence. To correct this deviation from Constitutional norms, the Governor will advance legislation to ban all asset seizure unless an arrest is made and require a criminal conviction before property can be forfeited. Also, the Governor will direct the Division of Criminal Justice Services to require law enforcement agencies to report demographic information of the individual from whom a seizure is made, including gender, age, race/ethnicity, and geographic location of the

seizure, to ensure this practice is being carried out fairly and consistently.

- **Re-entry Proposals:** Individuals with criminal convictions continue to face significant economic and social barriers to their successful reintegration into society. New York must do more to ensure those who have paid their debt to society have the tools to be productive members of society. First, the Governor will advance legislation to remove mandatory suspensions of driver's licenses for people convicted of drug crimes, which keeps people from going to work and attending drug treatment, as long as the crimes did not involve driving. Second, he proposes to remove outdated statutory bans on occupational licensing for professions outside of law enforcement and instead require agencies to assess applicants on an individualized basis. Third, he will also safely expand opportunities for release from prison for deserving individuals through geriatric release consideration for people

over the age of 55 with debilitating conditions exacerbated by age, by expanding the type and variety of programming that will make people eligible for merit release and limited credit time allowances, and studying whether people eligible for limited credit time allowances can safely take part in educational and work release. Fourth, the Governor will reduce the financial burdens of individuals after their release to accelerate their return to productivity, including removing the parole supervision fee, and having local child support enforcement offices review child support orders of people incarcerated for over six months, and, if warranted, adjust the orders downward so that unpayable child support debt does not accumulate during a person's incarceration. Without this crushing weight of debt, a parent emerges from prison ready to start working, and to start supporting his or her child upon release. Lastly, the Governor will direct the Council on Community Re-entry and Re-

integration, the Board of Parole, and the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision to undertake a comprehensive review of parole revocation guidelines and practices to determine appropriate alternatives to incarceration for those who violate technical parole conditions but pose no risk to public safety. Thirty-three percent of individuals released in 2012 were returned to prison within three years due to technical parole violations. New York jails and prisons should not be filled with people who may have violated the conditions of their parole, but present no danger to our communities. This review will explore how New York can better promote success for these individuals.

Governor Cuomo is committed to continually improving all aspects of New York's criminal justice system and ensuring New Yorkers are afforded the rights guaranteed to them. These proposals will accomplish

these goals and place New York at the forefront of progressive criminal justice practices for years to come.

Proposal: Build a Stronger Juvenile Justice System to Improve Youth Outcomes

This past year, Governor Cuomo signed into law historic legislation raising the age of criminal responsibility to 18 years of age. This landmark legislation continued the Governor's legacy of significant juvenile justice reforms, including granting over 100 acts of clemency to juveniles, issuing Executive Order 150 to separate young people from adults in prisons and move them to a new youth-only facility, creating the Youth Justice Institute to expand best practices and improve services, and reducing the State's reliance on juvenile detention. Despite these successes, more must be done to ensure New York's youth receive the programming they need and opportunities they deserve.

To successfully implement the Raise the Age legislation, Governor Cuomo proposes to invest $100 million over the next fiscal year to

support a continuum of effective prevention, diversion, treatment, re-entry and supervision services at the state and local level. This investment package will help stem the pipeline of youth who are too often unnecessarily and ineffectively involved in the juvenile justice system. This funding will both prevent thousands of youth from initial involvement in the justice system and directly expand rehabilitative treatment for over 10,000 young people already involved in the system. By building a comprehensive structure to assess and divert youth away from costly confinement, New York will not only be well-positioned to serve the new 16- and 17-year-olds affected by the new legislation, but also improve youth outcomes in education and employment, reduce future crimes and victimization, and significantly reduce the long-term system costs. In fact, similar evidence-based, community-oriented alternatives to detention have provided a return on investment of more than four dollars for every dollar spent.[10] Through these major investments, New York will remain a national leader in juvenile justice.

Proposal: Reduce New York's Use of Solitary Confinement

In 2016, Governor Cuomo began implementing a historic agreement reached between the New York Civil Liberties Union and the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision to reduce the frequency and duration of solitary confinement and to improve conditions within state prisons. While the agreement only required implementation of the new provisions over the course of multiple phases and years, the State immediately began implementing change. The Governor also exceeded the parameters of the settlement agreement by advancing regulations this past year to provide stricter oversight of the use of solitary confinement in local jails.

The results of these efforts have been remarkable within the State system. There has been a staggering 29 percent reduction in the number of inmates serving sanctions in a Special Housing Unit (SHU), so that roughly 5 percent of the entire population is confined to a SHU cell. Moreover, the average length of stay of an

inmate in a SHU cell has decreased by nearly 25 percent and the average length of a SHU sanction has decreased by 21 percent.

The State intends to continue this massive overhaul of the methods employed in correctional facilities. The Governor will direct the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision to close more than 1,200 SHU beds throughout New York State's correctional facilities. This effort will continue the Governor's legacy of delivering a safer and smarter correctional system that more effectively rehabilitates incarcerated individuals.

Proposal: Protect the Rights and Safety of New Yorkers in Local Jails

Since Governor Cuomo took office, the number of people detained or confined in local correctional facilities across New York decreased by over 10 percent. Between 2011 and 2016, New York City's jail population dropped by nearly 20 percent.[11] At the same time, the average jail population also declined by 8 percent

throughout the rest of the state.[12] Despite this progress, there are still more than 20,000 New Yorkers currently held in jails—often unsentenced, simply waiting for a court appearance or trial. In fact, at the end of 2017, more than 75 percent of individuals held in local correctional facilities, including those in New York City and the rest of the state, were unsentenced.[13]

To further reduce the number of people needlessly incarcerated before their innocence or guilt has been established, the Governor has proposed an aggressive criminal justice reform package, including bail, speedy trial, and discovery reform. These reforms will lead to a smarter, safer justice system, but there remains a critical need to address the urgent issues within jails where conditions are deplorable and all-too-often dangerous. While it is not the only problematic jail in the state, New York City Department of Correction's Rikers Island exemplifies the failures of management, facilities, and essential services, such medical care. These conditions have led to significant incidents that

have been well-covered by the press, such as avoidable deaths, violent assaults, and sexual abuses.

To address deficiencies in all local jails, the Governor proposes an immediate enforcement strategy from the State Commission of Correction. The Commission—which is statutorily authorized to oversee all correctional facilities—will undertake a comprehensive review of facilities throughout New York that have repeatedly and egregiously failed to meet well-established standards of safety, security, and service. This review will include an analysis of reportable incidents, deaths in custody, and physical facility conditions. Upon the Commission's determination, local jails with persistent, pervasive problems will be required to create and adhere to a corrective action plan to either improve their facilities—or close them in an expedited manner—to ensure the safety for both staff and incarcerated individuals. This work is critical to the integrity of the justice system.

Proposal: Pass the Child Victims Act

Under New York law, the majority of child sexual abuse offenses cannot be prosecuted after five years from their occurrence, which allows child abusers to go free and commit further abuse. Similarly, most civil lawsuits for this conduct must be brought within three years from the victim's 18th birthday. This makes it impossible for individuals who come forward as adults to seek or obtain any relief in court. The Governor would reform the State law to hold child abusers accountable and to allow New Yorkers to obtain relief in court if they are victims of child sexual abuse.

Specifically, the Governor seeks to eliminate statutes of limitation for all sexually-related criminal cases when committed against a person who is less than 18 years of age. Further, the Governor seeks to extend the statute of limitations for civil claims from three years from the victims 18th birthday to 50 years from the date of the offense. This would give many victims the opportunity to have their day in court. For any victim who is still unable to bring a lawsuit, the Governor would

open a one-year window in which these victims are able to commence their claims.

Finally, the Governor will eliminate the need to file a notice of claim with a public entity before being able to bring a lawsuit against that entity. Under New York law, victims are required to file notices of claim before they file a lawsuit against a public entity. These notices are barriers to the proper administration of justice and should not prevent a victim from having access to the courts.

Child victims are one of the most vulnerable populations of this state. The outdated laws of New York do not adequately address the needs of these young victims. New York needs to address this injustice in the fight against child sexual abuse.

Proposal: Streamline the Subpoena Process for Cases of Online Sexual Abuse of Children

Governor Cuomo is committed to stopping the victimization of children online. As Governor, he strengthened laws against internet access of child

pornography and as Attorney General he authored legislation that resulted in the removal of more than 24,000 accounts and online profiles linked to registered sex offenders.

Unfortunately, the scourge of sexual abuse online remains a statewide threat. State law enforcement officials are reporting a concerning growth in sextortion--the practice of disclosing or threatening to disclose explicit images of an individual in order to blackmail victims, usually to perform some type of sexual act—that is often used by adults to prey on unsuspecting children online. As internet use and the operation of sexual predators online rapidly evolves, so too must the law.

The New York State Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force has been immensely successful in investigating and arresting predators online. However, currently, when there is reason to believe an internet service account or online identifier has been used in the commission of certain specified sexual offenses, the State Police must refer investigations either to a prosecutor's

office for issuance of a grand jury subpoena or to a federal agency that has administrative subpoena power. This process is time-consuming, unwieldy, and yields inconsistent and sometimes unacceptable results, hindering law enforcement's ability to respond effectively to rapidly evolving Internet crimes targeting a vulnerable population.

This year, Governor Cuomo will advance legislation to overcome this procedural burden by providing the Superintendent of the State Police with administrative subpoena authority in these limited instances. The nature of computer crime investigations requires a rapid, efficient law enforcement response that current state law does not support. By improving the operational efficiency of law enforcement investigations, we can better protect the children of New York before they become victims.

Part 3. Launching a Comprehensive Plan to Attack Homelessness

Governor Cuomo is committed to implementing innovative solutions to address the multi-faceted problem of homelessness, including expanding access to affordable housing across the state. In 2016, the Governor launched a landmark $20 billion, five-year plan to combat homelessness and advance the construction of affordable housing in New York State, which included $10 billion to end the homelessness crisis and support housing programs, rental subsidies and other shelter costs in New York City and across the state.

The plan built on the Governor's strong record of addressing the challenge of homelessness. In 2016, the Governor issued Executive Order 151, which required that local social services districts take all necessary steps to identify street homeless persons and shelter them during inclement weather, and in June of that year the Governor created the New York State Interagency Council on Homelessness to explore targeted solutions to homelessness.

Despite the great strides taken and the tremendous investment already made, homelessness remains a challenge in New York. A recent report issued by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development indicated that there were 88,352 homeless people in the state on a single night in January. [14] This represented 16 percent of all homeless people in the entire U.S. on that night. In New York, we will not let up in the fight to combat the root causes of homelessness and ensure all New Yorkers have a safe place to live. To address the continued needs in New York City and across the state, Governor Cuomo will build on his historic investments to improve homeless services and develop supportive and affordable housing.

Proposal: Require Outreach and a Comprehensive Homeless Services Plan from Each Local Social Services District

Homelessness is on the rise, and street homelessness is the most difficult problem to solve. Governor Cuomo will require that local governments

must have an effective outreach program to the street homeless as a condition of receiving State funding for homelessness services. He is also directing that the MTA, the Port Authority, Centro, Capital District Transportation Authority, the Rochester-Genesee Regional Transportation Authority and the Niagara Frontier Transit Authority do the same.

Outreach to street homelessness must be part of an integrated strategy to combat homelessness. The responsibility to plan for homeless related services today is divided between local social services districts and community-based, not-for-profit providers. In many areas across the state, these separate planning activities are not aligned and there are no existing requirements to streamline services, incentivize data collection or allow for a global view of the situation.

Governor Cuomo will direct the Office of Temporary Disability Assistance to require social services districts to engage in planning activities related to street outreach, homelessness prevention activities, rapid rehousing, and ongoing housing stability for the

formerly homeless. The State will require the social services districts to engage with ongoing efforts, set reasonable goals that are data-driven and uniquely tailored to the needs of its communities, and to report regularly on progress made. The State will provide technical assistance throughout the planning process by releasing guidance related to best practices and policies that can facilitate success.

Proposal: Increase Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

Two of the primary contributing factors to homelessness, especially for homeless single adults, are mental illness and/or substance abuse. We know that 20-25 percent of those experiencing homelessness in the United States suffer from substance use disorder or severe mental illness and New York State is in line with national statistics in this area. Accessing treatment and recovery services, even when an individual is willing to accept them, is often difficult.

To strengthen shelter services for homeless individuals living with mental illness in existing homeless shelters, Governor Cuomo will direct the Office of Mental Health and the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance to work together to ensure that Assertive Community Treatment teams are connected to existing shelters, so that individuals with mental illness can access needed treatment.

In addition, the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services will make on-site peer-delivered substance abuse treatment services available in 14 existing shelters across the state. These on-site services will serve close to 200 homeless individuals with substance use disorder, with services provided in shelters that are located in areas that have seen the biggest increases in substance use.

Part 4. We Are All New Yorkers: Immigrant Rights

New York State is home to over 4.4 million immigrants, representing one out of every five New

Yorkers, who each contribute significantly to our state's economy, culture and social fabric.

Since taking office, the Governor has taken aggressive steps to provide assistance to immigrant communities. In 2011, he signed a wide-reaching Executive Order to ensure language access across state agencies, suspended the State's participation in a federal program that required local law enforcement to help identify deportable individuals, signed legislation holding entities that defraud immigrants accountable, and established the Office for New Americans. He launched NaturalizeNY, the first public-private partnership of its kind to encourage and assist eligible immigrants in New York State with becoming U.S. citizens. And last year Governor Cuomo launched the nation's first public-private immigrant legal defense initiative called the Liberty Defense Project in response to the surge in demand for help that was overwhelming nonprofit organizations serving immigrants.

This year, Governor Cuomo will continue to stand up for immigrants and uphold the values of the Lady in our Harbor.

Proposal: Pass the DREAM Act

Since 2002, undocumented students qualify for in-state tuition at SUNY and CUNY if they graduated from a New York high school or received a GED in the state. Yet, each year, many talented students who graduate from New York high schools remain unable to fulfill their potential simply because they cannot afford the tuition and lack access to tuition assistance to help pay for school. We can do better. Governor Cuomo will press for the passage of the DREAM Act to finally open the doors of higher education to thousands of New Yorkers. The DREAM Act will give undocumented students access to the Tuition Assistance Program, as well as state-administered scholarships and loans. An investment in young immigrants' futures is an investment in New York's future.

Proposal: Continue the First-In-the-Nation Liberty Defense Project to Provide Critical Legal Representation to Immigrants

Last year, Governor Cuomo successfully launched the Liberty Defense Project, a first-in-the nation, state-led, public-private legal defense fund to ensure that all immigrants, regardless of status, have access to high quality legal counsel. In partnership with leading nonprofit legal service providers, the Project has significantly expanded the availability of immigration attorneys statewide. These attorneys are providing defense against unnecessary deportations, securing the release of detained immigrants who are separated from their families, and assisting hundreds of lawful permanent residents, asylum seekers, refugees, and victims of domestic violence.

As misguided immigration policy at the federal level continues to threaten New York's immigrant families, Governor Cuomo will work to ensure that the Liberty Defense Project continues to sustain and grow

the network of legal service providers providing these critical service in defense of our immigrant communities.

Proposal: Establish the One World Utica Welcome & Opportunity Center

The Mohawk Valley has a uniquely high population of refugees, with approximately one-fourth of Utica's population made up of refugee families.[15] The Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees has resettled over 16,282 refugees from 36 nations and is a national model for refugee resettlement.[16] MVRCR's resettlement services address new arrivals' most immediate needs so they may focus as soon as possible on achieving self-sufficiency. These services include housing, health screenings, assistance with school enrollment, cultural orientation, employment assistance, citizenship and immigration services and case management.

To continue to support the resettlement of refugees into the Utica community, Governor Cuomo will invest in the expansion into the formerly vacant Utica

School of Commerce building to establish a "One World Welcome and Opportunity Center" in the heart of downtown Utica. This Impact Center will not only allow the Center to expand their services to provide workforce and vocational training to the Mohawk Valley's entire six-county region, but will also create shared work space for partner organizations to create a "one-stop shop" for individuals to access services. This award will improve the delivery of services to refugees, enhance coordination between organizations and help refugees better integrate into the Mohawk Valley.

Part 5. Promoting Tolerance

New York State was founded on the values of equality, justice and tolerance, and today we continue to uphold the New York Promise. Under the Governor's leadership, New York has achieved historic social progress, including passing marriage equality in 2011—tearing down the barriers preventing same-sex couples from exercising their freedom to marry and leading the

way for the Supreme Court to make marriage equality the law of the land in 2015, citing New York's example. The Governor has also taken action to prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender identity, transgender status, or gender dysphoria, and this year Governor Cuomo will continue to raise the mantle of progressive leadership.

Proposal: Protect Against Gender Identity-Based Discrimination and Harassment

New York State has always led the fight for all people to be able to live freely and without discrimination. In 1945, New York became the first state in the nation to enact a Human Rights Law, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed and national origin in employment, housing, credit, places of public accommodations, and nonsectarian educational institutions. That landmark legislation has been amended over the years to extend protections to families and people with disabilities, and prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and military status.

While Governor Cuomo has made unprecedented gains in the fight for LGBTQ rights, from marriage equality to first-in-the-nation protections based on gender identity, there is still significant work to be done. Civil rights for LGBTQ Americans are threatened at the federal level, and discrimination and violence against trans or gender nonconforming individuals is on the rise, with the FBI reporting that in 2016, anti-transgender incident reports rose 44 percent compared to the previous year.[17]

In 2016, at Governor Cuomo's direction the Division of Human Rights adopted regulations banning harassment and discrimination against transgender individuals. We should take steps to codify these existing regulations into statute. To that end, the Governor proposes adding gender identity as a protected class under the Human Rights Law. To provide protection for transgender New Yorkers who are the victims of hate and bias crimes, the Governor is also proposing protecting gender identity and expression under New York's Hate Crime Law. These actions reflect New York

values; the belief that every person should be treated equally and fairly, protected from harm and empowered with the opportunity to succeed.

Proposal: Fight Hate, Embrace Diversity

In 2012, the New York State's Dignity for All Students Act (The Dignity Act) was implemented, which provides New York students with a "safe and supportive environment free from discrimination, intimidation, taunting, harassment, and bullying on school property, a school bus and/or at a school function." That same year, Governor Cuomo amended the Dignity for All Students Act to help protect students from cyberbullying by requiring schools to develop procedures to deal with cyberbullying.

Since the 2016 presidential campaign and election, social media and news outlets have drawn attention to the hateful sentiments and threats against Muslim, Jewish, African American, Latino, LGBTQ and other vulnerable communities across the country and

hate crimes are on the rise. According to the Center for the Study of Hate & Extremism, at California State University, hate crimes in nine U.S. metropolitan areas rose more than 20 percent in 2016. [18] New York City reported the greatest number of hate crimes at 380, a 24 percent increase from 2015.

Bigotry, hateful rhetoric and hate crimes have found their way into schools and teachers have reported an increase in harassment, intimidation and bullying, especially toward vulnerable and marginalized students. Tensions have risen in classrooms and students across the country are experiencing high levels of anxiety and fear. In addition to anti-bullying work taking place in schools, the Governor will direct the Division of Human Rights to work with the State Education Department to develop a respect for diversity curriculum for students in the 8th and 9th grade that can be used by any school in the state.

Part 6. Protecting the Rights of Workers

New York has a long and proud tradition of fighting for union workers' rights. At a time of stagnant wages, evaporating pensions, and swelling household debt, unions offer a pathway to the middle class and create economic growth that reaches all Americans. New York was first in the nation to establish a Department of Labor in 1901, which was 12 years before the federal government. A little over a century ago, within months of the Triangle Shirt Waist Factory fire, New York was the first state to enact laws protecting workers.

New York's legacy of protecting workers' rights continues. In 2016, New York enacted a first-in-the-nation $15 minimum wage and passed the country's strongest paid family leave program. Today, our state has the highest percentage of unionized workers of any state in the country.

In 2015, Governor Cuomo launched the first-in-the-nation Task Force to Combat Worker Exploitation to root out worker exploitation in multiple industries across the state. In the first nine months of 2017, $19.8

million was returned to 27,200 victims of wage theft, and since Governor Cuomo took office, the state has recovered and returned more than $170 million to workers, the highest total in the nation.

Proposal: Examine Eliminating the Minimum Wage Tip Credit to Strengthen Economic Justice in New York State

In certain workplaces, such as car washes and restaurants, where wages and tips are both generally low, workers' income can rely entirely upon tips. These tips, meant as a reward for good service, instead serve as a critical wage subsidy that brings workers' wages just up to the legally mandated minimum wage. Because tips can be difficult to track, they can be a vehicle for wage theft when employers fail to pay workers properly. In addition, the practice disproportionately affects women and people of color in service industries and is linked to higher rates of sexual harassment.[19]

Governor Cuomo is directing the Commissioner of Labor to schedule public hearings to examine industries and evaluate the possibility of ending minimum wage tip

credits in New York State. The Department of Labor will hold public hearings to solicit input from workers, businesses and others to ensure New York continues to protect economic justice for all New Yorkers.

Proposal: Stand with Labor Unions Facing Uncertainty from the Supreme Court

Public-sector labor unions are under attack on the national level, facing legal challenges to their very core. The United States Supreme Court will soon hear a case called *Janus v. American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees* which seeks to effectively end public labor unions. The Court will determine whether fee arrangements like those permissible under the Taylor Law violate the First Amendment or not. As the nation waits for a decision in the *Janus* case, Governor Cuomo stands beside public labor unions in their fight for survival and will do everything in his power to preserve workers' rights and protect the right to organize and collectively bargain.

Part 7. Serving Our Veterans

Under Governor Cuomo's leadership, New York has championed programs to make New York State the most veteran-friendly state in the nation. The New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs continues to strengthen its ties with the approximately 775,000 veterans living in New York while building upon the programs the Governor envisioned at the Veterans and Military Family Summit in 2014. In 2017, the Division's representation of veterans and their family members once again helped these New Yorkers receive more than $100 million in disability compensation and pension benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Additionally, Governor Cuomo unveiled several new initiatives to benefit veterans and their family members during 2017, ranging from offering a million dollars in funding for veteran-to-veteran mentorship programs to providing grants to New York law schools helping veterans address unmet legal needs to waiving civil service examination fees for honorably discharged veterans.

The Governor is committed to meeting the needs of veterans across New York. Taken together, the following proposals will ensure that services for veterans, servicemembers, and their families in New York remain a national model of excellence.

Proposal: Prevent Financial Exploitation of Veterans and Their Families

Veterans who fight to protect our state and nation should never have to continue fighting enemies when they return home. Far too often, deceitful businesses target veterans who are elderly and/or disabled, promising to help veterans and their family members obtain federal benefits in exchange for an often substantial fee. Even though these businesses are legally forbidden from charging a fee for filing these claims, and even though many of these businesses lack the accreditation necessary to file these claims, states struggle to prosecute these wrongdoers unless the state statute specifically outlaws this harmful practice.

By enacting the nation's strongest legislation against pension poaching, New York strives to eliminate this predatory conduct. This law will implement new disclosure requirements for businesses that advertise their fee-based services of filing claims and appeals for VA benefits, and will enable the prosecution of businesses that violate these standards. In doing so, New York will set a national benchmark for preventing the men and women who served our country from becoming victims of financial exploitation.

Proposal: Properly Designate New York State's Veterans Service Agency

The New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs is frequently mistaken for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The acronyms commonly used to designate these agencies compound the confusion, as "DVA" is similar to "the VA." This confusion frequently leads to misdirected complaints to the Division about claims processing delays at the federal level and management of federal medical centers, and to an overall

sense of confusion about the Division's designated role and value for veterans and their families in New York. The Division's statewide outreach efforts have revealed that many veterans decide not to visit the Division's field offices because they believe that the Division is equivalent to the VA.

To avoid this confusion, the New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs will now become the New York State Division of Veterans' Services. This new name accurately defines the constant mission of this agency—serving veterans and their families the rest of the way—and clearly distinguishes the Division from the federal VA, avoiding any unnecessary mistakes and confusion moving forward.

Proposal: Expand Programs for Veterans Behind Bars

Governor Cuomo is dedicated to supporting the brave New Yorkers who have served our country. He recognizes that incarcerated veterans represent a unique segment of the imprisoned population that merit particular attention due to the unique circumstances

they face returning home from war, which can often make the duration of incarceration and the transition back into the community upon release especially difficult.

Through the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS), the Governor implemented three Veterans Residential Therapeutic Programs at Medium Security Correctional Facilities that identify each veteran's individual needs and provide them with corresponding services.

This year, the Governor will provide resources to expand the programs available and offer the programs in to Maximum Security Facilities for the first time. DOCCS will hire additional Licensed Master Social Workers, as well as a coordinator, and purchase a new professionally designed veteran specific curriculum that will broaden the scope of issues addressed, including conflict reduction and post-traumatic stress disorder and other relevant topics. Expanding the program will increase veterans' successful reintegration into society once they

leave prison and reduce overall rates of recidivism, aiding our veterans and improving overall public safety.

Proposal: Deliver Access to Justice for Veterans through Law School Partnerships

In 2017, Governor Cuomo established New York State's Justice for Heroes grants, awarding $50,000 to each of five law schools offering innovative proposals to address veterans' unmet legal needs. The funding allowed the schools to provide greatly needed free legal assistance to veterans and their family members in several crucial practice areas, including foreclosure prevention and other consumer protection matters, family law assistance, discharge upgrade cases, and complex appeals regarding VA benefits.

Building on the success of the initial awards, Governor Cuomo will expand the Justice for Heroes program to offer each of these schools the chance to renew their grants for the next two years. By providing these law schools with a grand total of up to $150,000, each school will be able to improve the sustainability of

its new legal services initiatives, ensuring that free legal services for veterans and their families will be provided by faculty and students at these schools for many years to come.

2. EXPANDING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

Part 1. Prioritizing Early Education

Governor Cuomo has championed early childhood and family health programming to ensure that all children are healthy and thriving in New York State. The Governor recognizes that it is essential we reach our children in the critical development window—while they are young. Early childhood support and learning is the basis of a quality education and can significantly improve the long-term prospects of our young people. The earlier in life children can participate in high-quality programs, the better the State's education system can work to ensure opportunity for all.

Governor Cuomo created the first full-day pre-kindergarten program in New York in 2013 with the priority pre-kindergarten program. Every year since

then, Governor Cuomo has expanded access to full-day pre-kindergarten, and to date, more than 90 percent of high-need school districts offer pre-kindergarten. In 2016, the Governor committed $10.4 million to 25 high-need school districts to increase access to quality pre-kindergarten for more than 1,500 three-year-old students across New York.

Child care is an essential fact of life for working single parents and two-earner families but it costs more than rent on average in nearly half the country.[20] In New York, where two-thirds of children under six have both parents in the workforce, typical childcare for an infant and four-year-old reaches nearly $26,000, surpassing the cost of college.[21] Governor Cuomo has taken unprecedented action to ease this financial burden. In 2017—building on his middle class agenda—Governor Cuomo created the Enhanced Middle Class Child Care Tax Credit to reduce child care costs for more than 200,000 working families statewide. And under Governor Cuomo, more than 97 percent of New York

children have health coverage—the highest level in history.

Advancing the progress of recent years, Governor Cuomo will make critical investments to strengthen early childhood programming and expand access to more New Yorkers.

Proposal: Invest When It Matters Most: The First 1,000 Days of Life

The basic structure of the brain is developed in the first 1,000 days of a child's life.[22] Positive experiences are critical for development, and adverse childhood experiences partially explain significant disparities in health and learning by the time children enter school. About 40 percent of children enter school developmentally behind national standards,[23] or "not school ready," which may cause developmental problems that impair children's future growth in cognitive, emotional and social skills.[24] [25]

Because nearly 60 percent of all children ages zero to three in New York are covered by Medicaid, the

State's Department of Health (DOH) is uniquely positioned to address the health needs of children and families as well as the social determinants impacting their health.[26]

In August of 2017, Governor Cuomo directed DOH to create a First 1,000 Days on Medicaid working group to identify and recommend ways to improve outcomes and opportunities for young children and their families through access to childhood health services and expansion of other health and early childhood system coordination and family supports. The working group, co-chaired by former SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher and State Education Department Commissioner Mary Ellen Elia, intentionally adopted a cross-sector strategy to include participation from more than 200 members representing stakeholder interests from the health and mental health, education, early childhood, and child and family sectors. The working group developed a set of ten recommendations that are evidence-based and measurable to drive outcomes for young children and their families through improving childhood health

services, expanding programs that work, and investing in family supports to focus on enhancing access to services and improving outcomes for children during their first 1,000 days of life.

Based on the recommendations of the working group, Governor Cuomo will begin implementation of the comprehensive First 1,000 Days Plan to:

- Develop a clear, standardized model of pediatric primary care to ensure that growth and development are on track and establish a uniform measurement tool for providers and educators to assess child development upon kindergarten entry. Aligned with the American Academy of Pediatrics' standard of care, DOH, in collaboration with a Preventative Pediatric Clinical Advisory Group, will develop a framework model for providers serving families with children ages zero to three on how best to organize well-child visits, which will include standards for the use of care coordination and protocols, the selection and timing of early childhood screening tools,

incorporating trauma-informed care into practice, developing systems to receive follow-up after screening and referral to offsite programs, and delivering culturally and linguistically appropriate care.

- Facilitate group-based models of prenatal care to support pregnant women living in neighborhoods with the poorest birth outcomes in the State, including high incidence of preterm births and low birth weights.
- Enhance home visiting services in three high-risk communities using a targeted approach to match families to a home visiting program that best fits their needs and eligibility.
- Launch peer-family navigator services in non-healthcare community settings, such as family homeless shelters and drug treatment centers, to facilitate effective warm handoffs from the provider diagnosing the child to the treatment provider allowing continuity of care in services for at-risk families.

- Provide parents of young children with improved access to evidence based parent-child therapy models.

Proposal: Expand Pre-Kindergarten for Three- and Four-Year-Olds in High-Need Schools Across the State

Under Governor Cuomo's leadership, the State has more than doubled its annual commitment to pre-kindergarten from $385 million to more than $800 million. In addition, since Governor Cuomo introduced three-year-old pre-kindergarten in 2015, more than $30 million is now dedicated to high-need three-year-olds alone.

Governor Cuomo will continue to invest in pre-kindergarten by providing an additional $15 million to continue to expand pre-kindergarten for three- and four-year-olds in high-need schools around the state. This will provide high quality educational programming and incidentally help to alleviate the childcare burden. In addition, to ensure that children of all physical and learning needs are able to participate in three and four-

year-old pre-kindergarten, the new expansion will focus on including students in integrated or community-based settings.

Proposal: Establish the Child Care Availability Task Force

To build on his investments in child care and the development of safe, accessible, and affordable child care, the Governor is establishing a new Child Care Availability Task Force. This task force, which will include representatives from the child care provider community, the advocacy community, representatives of the business community, unions that represent child care providers, representatives from several state agencies and local departments of social services, will be responsible for examining access to affordable child care; availability of child care for those with non-traditional work hours; statutory and regulatory changes that could promote or enhance access to child care; business incentives to increase child care access; and the

impact on tax credits and deductions relating to child care.

Part 2. Setting the Right Learning Conditions

New York's schools are the cornerstones of our communities, but providing our students a brighter future means doing more than supporting them in the classroom.

Acting on recommendations from the New York State Education Reform Commission, Governor Cuomo started the State's first community school program in 2013. Community schools increase family engagement and utilize the efforts of non-profit community-based organizations, local and state government agencies, higher education institutions, and the philanthropic and business communities to coordinate efforts and create better outcomes for children and families. Governor Cuomo has invested more than $150 million to support the transformation of community schools, ensuring schools are meeting their students' academic and well-being needs. There are now more than 200 school

districts that receive Community School funding. In addition, in 2017, Governor Cuomo provided funding for Community School Technical Assistance centers to support schools in starting new Community School programs.

New York also works to ensure that students have access to nutritious meals during the day. The State runs the largest Summer School Food Program in the country, ensuring that students that rely on school for lunches are still offered the opportunity for a meal when school is out of session. New York also provides an additional per meal reimbursement to schools to provide high quality meals for children. And in 2015, Governor Cuomo launched the Farm to School Program to connect schools with local farmers, helps Kindergarten through Grade 12 schools connect with local farmers, increase the use of locally grown food on school menus, improve student health, and educate young people about agriculture.

This year, Governor Cuomo will take New York's efforts to the next level. From tackling student hunger to strengthening our community schools, Governor Cuomo

will take unprecedented action to ensure our young people can thrive.

Proposal: Launch a Five-Point Plan to Ensure No Student Goes Hungry

Governor Cuomo has invested more than $150 million to support the transformation of community schools to ensure schools are meeting their students' academic and well-being needs. New York State also provides an additional per meal reimbursement to schools to assist with providing high quality meals for children. In 2015, Governor Cuomo established funding to support Farm to School implementation, and to connect schools with local farmers.

Despite best efforts some students still go hungry. In 1994, New York passed a law requiring schools that are considered "severe need" regarding student eligibility to serve school breakfast in addition to lunch. However, New York was identified as in the bottom ten states for students participating[27]—which means students begin their day hungry. In addition, news

stories have reported the disgraceful practice of lunch shaming, which is denying a child food or embarrassing him or her due to inability to pay. [28]

The issue of food insecurity is not only limited to K-12 students. A recent national survey of college students found that 48 percent experienced food insecurity in the past 30 days.[29] The data suggests that hunger is more common among college students than the U.S. population as a whole, in which 14 percent of households experience food insecurity each year. [30]

Governor Cuomo will launch a five-point plan to eliminate barriers to school food and ensure no student goes hungry:

- **Ban lunch shaming:** Lunch shaming is a disgraceful practice in some schools where children are publicly humiliated in front of their peers by adults for not having money for lunch. In many cases, these students are forced to wear a sticker or bracelet, or have their name called over the loud speaker. In other cases, these students are given alternative, lesser quality lunches, such

as a cold cheese sandwich when other students get hot lunches. Other national news reports have reported children simply being denied food if they cannot pay. The Governor will propose a law that when passed, would immediately end the practice of lunch shaming of any kind. First, it will prohibit any public act to humiliate a student who cannot afford lunch. Second, it will ban alternative lunches and require students to receive the same lunch as others starting in the 2018-19 school year.

- **Expand breakfast "after the bell:"** High-need schools in New York are required to offer breakfast, but current law allows flexibility when it is offered. Therefore, many offer meals in only a limited time frame, which may be before buses arrive, making it inaccessible for many students. In order to allow students to have breakfast and to prevent them from going hungry during morning classes, Governor Cuomo will propose requiring schools with more than 70 percent of

students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch to provide breakfast after the school day has begun for the next school year. In successful breakfast after the bell programs, schools can either serve breakfast in the classroom, or offer nutritious vending machine options to ensure that students have access to breakfast as they start their day. In the city of Newburgh, where Breakfast After the Bell was implemented during the 2015-16 school year, schools have seen their breakfast participation rates increase by more than 100 percent. To ease the transition, the state will provide technical assistance and capital funds for equipment such as coolers and vending machines to support breakfast after the bell. An estimated $7 million in capital funds will support expanded breakfast for 1,400 schools.

- **Expand the Farm to School Program:** The Farm to School program was created to connect schools with local farmers and offers technical assistance and capacity in the school to source products

locally to help schools provide students with nutritious meals from food produced by local farms. Previous rounds of funding for this program have increased access to healthy, farm-fresh food for 324,000 students. This funding can be used for capital costs to support transporting and storing locally produced food, and to hire farm-to-school coordinators and trainings for crops and food preparation. Governor Cuomo proposes doubling the state's investment to add $750,000 for a total of $1.5 million in Farm to School projects. If passed, the program would serve an estimated total of 18 projects and 328,000 additional students, bringing the estimated total number of students served to 652,000.

- **Increase the Use of Farm-Fresh, Locally Grown Foods at School:** To incentivize school districts to use more local farm-fresh products, Governor Cuomo will propose an increase in the reimbursement schools receive for lunches from

the current 5.9 cents per meal to 25 cents per meal for any district that purchases at least 30 percent ingredients from New York farms. This is a win-win for students as well as New York's local farms.

- **Require food pantries on all SUNY and CUNY campuses:** To ensure consistent healthy food options are available to young adults on college campuses, the Governor will require all SUNY and CUNY schools to either provide physical food pantries on campus, or enable students to receive food through a separate arrangement that is stigma-free. The Governor proposes a $1 million state investment for schools to implement the program. In 2009, fewer than 10 campus food pantries existed at private and state colleges nationwide, and as of 2017, more than 570 currently exist. Only about half of all SUNY and CUNY campuses have food pantries currently in place. If a campus offers students access to quality, affordable food options through an

arrangement with an outside food bank, delivery and distribution must be included. New York State would be the first state to require every public campus to have a food pantry.

Proposal: Improve School Mental Health Capacity and Services in Community Schools

Trauma at early ages has been found to lead to difficulty learning and ongoing behavior problems.[31] Given the overwhelming amount of research connecting childhood mental health with school performance and long-term success, teachers and school administrators need new tools to support student's mental health and wellness.

Under Governor Cuomo's leadership, New York has significantly changed the way the State approaches mental health in schools. In 2016, as part of the Safe Schools emergency plans, school districts are now required to train staff on mental health and the emergency plans. In 2017, mental health was included as an allowable use of the $150 million in community school

funds. Beginning in the 2018-19 school year, school districts are now required to include mental health as part of the health curriculum. In addition, there are now 745 school-based mental health clinics licensed by New York State Office of Mental Health to help students better access services.

Despite this progress, student mental health remains a challenge. In order to better support schools, Governor Cuomo is proposing $250,000 to create enhanced mental health support grants. Community schools programs would be eligible to include mental health activities in wrap-around services. Funds can also be used to improve school climate, combat violence and bullying, and support social-emotional learning.

Part 3. Lifting up the Teaching Profession

Our educators are essential to the success of our young people. In fact, education research shows that an effective educator is the single most important factor in student achievement.[32] That is why Governor Cuomo has

been committed to supporting, empowering and celebrating teachers across the state.

There are more than 200,000 K-12 teachers in New York State. Under the Governor's leadership, New York has modernized teacher preparation programs and teacher licensing requirements and required 100 hours of high quality professional development to prepare all new teachers to succeed. In addition, the Governor has taken targeted action to lift up our educators and ensure that every student has an outstanding teacher in the classroom. The Master Teacher program, for example, was launched in 2013 to support highly effective STEM teachers and develop a network of STEM teachers in every region of the state. In 2016, the Governor created the Empire State Excellence in Teaching Award to recognize the outstanding educators who exemplify the highest professional standards and work to inspire students, instill a love of learning and ensure school is exciting, motivating and challenging.

This year, Governor Cuomo will continue to invest in our teachers and provide New York's young people

with mentors who will shine a bright path forward for our students.

Proposal: Expand the Reach of Master Teachers

In 2013, Governor Cuomo launched the New York State Master Teacher Program to strengthen our nation's STEM education. The Master Teachers award gives selected educators an annual $15,000 stipend for four years, professional development opportunities and a platform to foster a supportive environment for the next generation of STEM teachers. Today, the New York State Master Teacher Program is a vibrant network of more than 900 outstanding public school teachers throughout the state who share a passion for their own STEM learning and for collaborating with colleagues to inspire the next generation of STEM leaders. In 2017, Governor Cuomo announced $2 million to expand the Master Teacher Program and create a new cohort of 115 Master Teachers in grades K-12, specifically in computer science.

This year the Governor is proposing an additional $1 million to create a new cohort of Master Teachers serving exclusively in high-need school districts. High-need school districts have higher than average rates of teacher turnover so this funding will help recruit and retain highly performing teachers in high poverty districts, and well as create professional networks.

In addition, in order to support and retain new teachers, the Master Teacher professional learning networks will be encouraged to connect with teachers from the Teacher Opportunity Corps—a program that recruits historically underrepresented individuals to become New York teachers—that are in the regional area.

Proposal: Continue the Successful New York State Mentoring Program

Approximately 13,000 students, over six percent, still drop out of high school every year. The drop-out rate is even higher for Students with Disabilities and English Language Learners. Mentoring is recognized as a drop-

out prevention strategy by the United States Department of Education.

A study of more than 14,000 adolescents found that youth with an adult mentor were twice as likely to attend college as their peers.[33] Yet only half of youth in poverty report having an adult mentor. Research has found that youth with mentors were less likely to break the law or experience substance abuse.[34] Mentors make a difference in helping students of all backgrounds succeed. A separate study found that girls that engaged in a supportive mentoring relationship were four times less likely to participate in bullying behaviors than girls without mentors.[35]

Recognizing the importance of the role of a supportive adult in a child's life, Governor Cuomo relaunched the New York State Mentoring program in 2015. In 1984, at the request of her husband, Governor Mario Cuomo, Mrs. Matilda Raffa Cuomo created and implemented The New York State Mentoring Program, the nation's first statewide unique school based one-to-one mentoring program to prevent school dropout.

Today, the New York State Mentoring program serves 1,766 students in 97 school-based sites across New York State.

Proposal: Extend the Empire State Excellence in Teaching Program

In 2016, Governor Cuomo announced the winners of the first-ever Empire State Excellence in Teaching Awards. The Teaching Awards recognize outstanding educators who embody these traits of teachers across the state. Winners were selected from every region of the state; they devote their careers to working with students in grades Pre-K to 12 and teach diverse subjects such as music, math, reading, science, technical education and art.

To highlight the high caliber of teaching in classrooms across the state each and every day, the Governor proposes supporting a third round of the Excellence in Teaching awards.

Part 4. Expanding High Quality Education Programming for All

Governor Cuomo has secured record investments in K-12 education to support all students in the state, recognizing that no investment is more important than the future of our young people. The State's investment in education has increased every year under the Governor's leadership, expanding access to high quality education and ensuring New York's students have the tools, resources and support they need to succeed regardless of race, zip code and income. In 2016, Governor Cuomo advanced additional funding to completely eliminate the Gap Elimination Adjustment, which was created as a response to the Great Recession. Under Governor Cuomo, education aid has increased by $6.2 billion, or 32 percent, over six years. Today New York spends more per pupil than any other state in the nation, at $21,206 per pupil or almost double the national average of $11,392. At the same time, the Governor's $2 billion Smart Schools Bond Act is improving classroom technology, high-tech security and school connectivity to

ensure our young people are prepared for a 21st century economy.

Schools are the center of community for the more than 2.6 million K-12 students in New York public schools. Other than hours spent sleeping, school aged children spend more time in school than they spend doing anything else. It is important that this time is spent valuably, and that all students have access to interesting and rigorous content, engaging opportunities and feel that school is a safe and supportive place to learn and grow. This year, Governor Cuomo will continue to expand access to quality education programming and set our young people on the path to success.

Proposal: Launch Another Round of the Empire State After-School Program

Under Governor Cuomo's leadership, the State has worked to ensure a safe, supportive place to go after school. Last year, the State invested $35 million to create 22,000 new after-school slots in school districts with the highest rates of child poverty, and the State now invests

$100 million to directly support safe and enriching childcare for school-aged children.

Research shows that high quality after-school programs have a $3 return on investment for every dollar spent.[36] Moreover, after-school programming provides an invaluable alternative for homeless students. On a single night in January 2016 there were 29,914 children under the age of 18 experiencing homelessness[37]—for these students the after-school hours can be a particularly dangerous and vulnerable time.

In order to ensure that as many students as possible have a safe and supportive place to go after school, the State will launch an additional $10 million round of Empire State After School Grants, with a focus on high-need areas.

In addition, research has shown that after-school programming can help keep students safe from violent activities. A study of after-school programs in 12 high-risk California communities found that, among participating youth, vandalism and stealing dropped by

two-thirds, violent acts and carrying a concealed weapon fell by more than half, and arrests were cut in half.[38] In order to combat gang and violent activity, $2 million of this expansion will be directed to schools and community partners identified in at-risk areas. A new investment in afterschool programs targeted to school districts with high rates of childhood homelessness or few safe afterschool options will help ensure that children have a secure and productive place to be in the hours after school ends.

Proposal: Expand the Successful Early College High School Program by Growing the Network of Schools Throughout the State

Under Governor Cuomo, New York State has been a leader in offering opportunities for students to earn college credit while still in high school. In 2013, New York State began funding the State's first Pathways in Technology (P-TECH) programs, which allow students to graduate with a high school diploma and an associate's degree in an in-demand field in technology. As the first Governor to provide state support for P-TECH Schools,

this network has grown from one school in 2013 to 32 schools today. New York now invests more than $10 million annually supporting the successful P-TECH program. In addition, in the 2015 to 2016 school year, there were 24 other Early College High School programs where roughly 8,000 students had earned over 84,000 transferable college credits.[39] In New York State, in 2016, nearly 86 percent of the 2012 cohort of Smart Scholars graduated or met high school graduation requirements.[40]

For too many young people, the current high school model is still not working. There are high schools in the state where less than two-thirds of the students graduate. Moreover, even among graduates, not all students are prepared for college work—recent data suggests that less than forty percent of students in New York City met the standard for college readiness at CUNY.[41] Research has suggested that access to college level courses in high school has a significant effect on students' college readiness. A 2013 study found that students who took one or more AP Exams, regardless of

their exam score, were more likely to graduate from college in four years compared to non-AP students, even when controlling for demographic factors and prior academic achievement.[42]

Currently, too many students have their opportunities limited because they cannot participate in an Early College High School program, like P-TECH, due to the school they attend. For those high schools that do offer college courses or a P-TECH, those programs have a very limited number of seats. To ensure that every student in these schools has greater opportunity, the Governor proposes a $9 million expansion of the highly successful Early College High Schools program by aligning new schools to in-demand industries such as technology, sports management and finance to provide opportunities for every student in the school to earn some college credit or associate's degrees, with skills and enhanced experience to step into a job in the related-field upon graduation. Funds will be allocated to create 15 new early college high schools in communities with low graduation or college access rates. In order to receive

funds, schools must partner with an institution of higher education and a business to develop a plan that will ensure students graduate with a minimum of some college credit and have a degree or a path to completion in two years or fewer.

Proposal: Expand Computer Science Education to All Elementary, Middle and High Schools

Governor Cuomo has long recognized the importance of reimagining education for the 21st century. The $2 billion Smart Schools Bond Act, proposed in 2014, is a groundbreaking investment in education technology across New York and represents a pillar of the Governor's commitment to expanding computer and STEM learning in our schools.

Computer science education is more important than ever before. Technology is among the fastest growing and highest paying sectors today, and the number one in-demand occupation in New York State.[43] But even though 93 percent of parents report that they want their child to study Computer Science,[44] the

majority of New York public schools do not offer computer science in the classroom. In addition, there is a wide gender gap in the students studying computer science. In 2015, New York had only 3,801 computer science graduates; only 18 percent were female.[45] Only 3,761 high school students in New York took the AP Computer Science exam in 2016; only 25 percent were female.[46]

- **Create the Smart Start Computer Science Program:** This year, Governor Cuomo will launch New York's largest state investment to expand high-quality computer science education by offering teacher support and resources in computer science and technology, especially for the youngest learners, starting as early as kindergarten and creating a continuum through 8th grade. It is important to reach students at an early age, as research has suggested that girls are less likely to pursue STEM careers as adults, even when equally mathematically talented; [47] many boys of color fall behind early in their academic

careers and, in many situations, never catch up. The Governor proposes a commitment of $6 million a year for the *Smart Start* program that will provide grants to schools for teacher development in computer science and engineering. All schools will be eligible but grants will go to the highest need schools first. By providing elementary school teachers support to become in-house experts in computer science, more students will be exposed to computer science and engineering and will self-select into it. Schools that receive an award will work with their Regional Economic Development Councils to tailor the program to regional businesses or future employers' needs.

- **Create model computer science standards:** In addition, the Governor will convene a working group of educators and industry partners create model computer science standards to be made available to any school. By equipping our young people with computer science skills at an early

age today, we will prepare them for the jobs of tomorrow.

Proposal: Expand Access to Advanced Placement Courses

According to the College Board, high school students can save college tuition savings by taking college classes in high school, up to an entire year of college.[48] Research has demonstrated that students who take the AP exam are more likely to graduate college on time than students of similar academic performance who do not take AP courses.[49] Governor Cuomo included $2 million in the FY 2018 budget to help subsidize the AP exam fee for nearly 70,000 tests taken by low-income students. This funding was able to help decrease the cost of the exam to under $30 for every low-income student taking the exam in the State. However, not all students are currently able to access such advanced coursework. For example, nationally only 49 percent of high schools in rural areas offer at least one AP course, while 86 percent of high schools in suburban districts offer at

least one AP course—some offering more than 20 courses.[50] In addition, in schools with more limited offerings, students are not able to access courses such as AP Computer Science, STEM courses, or world languages.

In order to ensure that students across the State, including the more remote, rural areas of New York State as well as high poverty areas have access to advanced coursework, and can afford the cost of the exam the Governor will provide $2 million in new funds to expand the low-income test fee fund for both AP and International Baccalaureate test fees as well as provide $500,000 in grants for technical assistance for school districts wishing to start advanced courses that do not currently offer any courses, or very limited advanced course offerings.

Proposal: Increase Fines and Enforcement for Passing Stopped School Buses

Governor Cuomo recognizes that the safety of our children is our highest priority. To that end, the Governor modernized the school safety laws in 2016 to increase

student safety. The updated laws required school districts to designate a point of contact in case of emergency, increase training requirements for faculty and staff, and update safety drills to include a lock down event.

The Governor will continue this leadership in student safety to ensure that students are safe on their way to and from school. In New York, approximately 2.3 million students ride school buses to and from school every year, and out of concern for their safety it is illegal to pass a stopped school bus. Yet on Operation Safe Stop in April 2017, the one day in which law enforcement targeted citations for passing a stopped school bus, over 1,000 people were ticketed.[51] Extrapolated for 180 days of school, someone passes a stopped school bus 180,000 times a year, endangering the safety of school children.

This year, Governor Cuomo will increase the fine for passing a stopped school bus as a way to increase student safety.

Part 5. Expanding Access to Higher Education

Governor Cuomo is leading the nation in expanding access to a quality and affordable college education and provide our young people with the tools and skills they need in the 21st century economy. Today a college education is more important than ever before: By 2024, 3.5 million jobs in New York State will require an Associate's Degree or higher – roughly 420,000 more jobs than in 2014.[52]

Governor Cuomo has increased funding for higher education by $1.3 billion since 2012 or 22 percent from $6.1 billion to $7.4 billion. New York is also providing $1.1 billion in strategic programs to make college more affordable and encourage the best and brightest students to build their future in New York.

Since he took office, the Governor has taken action to reduce the financial barriers to college. Beginning in 2011, Governor Cuomo replaced decades of unpredictable and sudden tuition hikes with a rational tuition plan that limits SUNY and CUNY tuition increases. Now the average tuition at the State's four-year public

institutions are lower than 39 other states. In 2015, Governor Cuomo created the Get On Your Feet Student Loan Forgiveness Program to provide up to two years of student loan payments for recent college graduates.

Last year, building on the State's already generous tuition assistance, the Governor launched the groundbreaking Excelsior Scholarship to provide tuition-free college for middle class families. The first-of-its-kind program in the nation covers tuition at New York's public colleges and universities to families making up to $125,000 a year—ensuring that more than 53 percent of full-time SUNY and CUNY in-state students are going to school tuition-free.

In addition to these programs, the Governor continues to address other costs of college, investing $8 million to help reduce the costs of textbooks through innovations like the Open Educational Resources at SUNY and CUNY. The Governor has also paired access with support for learning and physical enhancements, including providing nearly $700 million in funds to SUNY and CUNY to enhance the learning structures and

facilitate new innovations through the SUNY and CUNY 2020 programs.

Building on these historic accomplishments, Governor Cuomo will continue to fight to ensure all New Yorkers can go to college and achieve their dreams.

Proposal: Launch the Second Phase of the Excelsior Free Tuition Program

Last year, Governor Cuomo created the historic Excelsior Scholarship, the first-in-the-nation program to provide free tuition at New York's public colleges and universities for middle class families. A college degree is essential to succeed in today's economy, and this program provides all New Yorkers the opportunity to go to college. Along with other sources of tuition assistance, including the generous New York State Tuition Assistance Program, the Excelsior Scholarship allows approximately 53 percent of full-time SUNY and CUNY in-state students, or more than 210,000 New York residents, to attend school tuition-free.

In FY 2019, the Excelsior Scholarship will enter year two of a three-year phase-in. Starting in the 2018-19 academic year, the Excelsior Scholarship income eligibility threshold will increase, allowing New Yorkers with household incomes up to $110,000 to be eligible.

Students must be enrolled in college full-time and complete 30 credits per year (including Summer and Winter sessions) to receive the funding. The program has built-in flexibility so that any student facing hardship can pause and restart the program, and all recipients can balance the 30 credit hour per year requirement between semesters, taking fewer in one and more in another. To continue this landmark program, the Governor is proposing $118 million to support 27,000 students in the Excelsior Scholarship program.

Proposal: Combat Exploding Student Debt

Governor Cuomo is committed to easing the crushing burden of student debt. In 2015, Governor Cuomo created the Get On Your Feet Student Loan Forgiveness Program to provide up to two years of

student loan payments for recent college graduates. Last year, the Governor took this commitment to the next level with the launch of the groundbreaking Excelsior Scholarship to provide tuition-free college for middle class families.

At a time when a college education is more important than ever, the cost of higher education is on the rise and student debt is reaching record highs. Today student loan debt is the second highest debt category in the United States after mortgage debt, accounting for 10 percent of debt balance[53] and amounting to $1.48 trillion in total.[54]

Increasing access to an affordable higher education is critical in New York State. Our public college tuition and fees are 20 percent below the national average and lower than 39 other states. New York has already taken steps to make a college education even more affordable through the Excelsior Free Tuition Scholarship for all public colleges and universities to eliminate tuition for working and middle class families. Additionally, New York has also created the innovative

Get On Your Feet Loan Repayment Program that will cover the first two years of student loan payments for New York State public and private college graduates with incomes below $50,000.

To continue to address this challenge, the Governor is proposing a series of new reforms to alleviate the debt and burden of student loans. The Governor will create a comprehensive plan that includes:

- **Create a Student Loan Ombudsman at the Department of Financial Services:** The Ombudsman will be the student borrower's advocate to help resolve student complaints, mediate disputes and educate borrowers about student loans. The Ombudsman will also offer free financial counseling and assistance for those in default. This will help ensure that New York student borrowers are protected regardless of any changes that are made to the federal ombudsman program with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

- **Require colleges provide simple truth in lending facts for students:** The Governor proposes requiring all colleges annually provide students with the estimated amounts incurred for student loans, including the amount of student loans incurred to date; a range of the total payoff amount including principal and interest; and the monthly repayment amount that the student may incur for the loan to date. This proposal expands on the Governor's Financial Aid Award Information Sheet that helps inform students of the cost of going to college.
- **Increase consumer protection standards throughout the student loan industry:** The Governor will advance sweeping protections for students including ensuring that no student loan servicers or debt consultants can mislead a borrower or engage in any predatory act or practice, misapply payments, provide credit reporting agencies with inaccurate information, or any other practices that may harm the

borrower. These protections will also include banning upfront fees, requiring fair contracts and clear and conspicuous disclosures to borrowers, and providing penalties for failing to comply with the law. Further, the proposal will require that those companies servicing student loans must be licensed by DFS and meet standards consistent with the laws and regulations governing other significant lending industries like mortgages.

- **Prohibit State agencies from suspending the professional licenses of individuals behind or in default on their student loans:** The Governor will propose a law expressly prohibiting the suspension of professional licenses of individuals behind or in default on their student loans. Currently, there are 19 states that allow for the suspension of a professional license for people who are behind or in default on their student loans, with one state allowing for the suspension of an individual's driver's license. This practice severely limits the ability of people to support

themselves and their families, and to ultimately pay back their student loans, creating a further financial death spiral. By expressly prohibiting the practice, the Governor will ensure that current and future New Yorkers are protected.

3. NY WORKS

Part 1. Keeping New York Economically Competitive

Since day one, Governor Cuomo has fought to reduce taxes for New Yorkers. Today all New Yorkers pay a lower state tax rate than when Governor Cuomo took office, and the Governor has secured the lowest middle class tax rate since 1947, the lowest corporate tax rate since 1968 and the lowest manufacturers tax rate since 1917.

Governor Cuomo is also tackling the state's challenge of high property taxes, enacting a property tax cap and property tax cap freeze that have led to a combined average savings of $2,600. Last year, Governor Cuomo launched a groundbreaking new program to promote shared services and pass savings onto residents.

The federal government's targeted assault on New York has only increased the urgency of easing the

tax burden on New Yorkers. By nearly entirely eliminating state and local deductibility, the federal tax plan is poised to cost New York families more than $14 billion and exacerbate the challenge of high property taxes in New York.

While Washington leaves our middle class behind, New York will continue to fight for our hardworking families. Governor Cuomo will stand up to the federal tax plan while continuing the progress he has already made to lower taxes in New York.

Proposal: Fight the Federal Tax Assault on New York

The recently enacted federal tax law is an assault on New York. By gutting the deductibility of state and local taxes, the law effectively raises middle class families' property and state income taxes by 20 to 25 percent, and undermines a critical foundation of state and local government finances in New York State and across the nation. New York is already the top "donor state" in the nation—contributing $48 billion more annually to the federal government than it gets back—

and under the new law the State will pay an additional $14 billion per year.

Make no mistake: This law will hurt New York. These damaging reforms risk driving people from the state and reducing our ability to attract businesses. Governor Cuomo believes that we must take dramatic action to preserve our state's economy. He is putting forward a three-part strategy to fight this assault on New York.

First, we will challenge the new law in court as unconstitutional—the first federal double taxation in our nation's history, violative of states' rights and the principle of equal protection.

Second, we will lead the nation's resistance to the new law, starting a repeal-and-replace effort: "Tax Fairness for All" campaign.

And third, we will take action to protect the state's economy. Specifically, we will explore the feasibility of a major shift in tax policy, and are developing a plan to restructure the current income and payroll tax system,

as well as create new opportunities for charitable contributions to support public programs.

As we launch this massive and complicated review, we will engage tax experts, employers, and other stakeholders in a thorough and collaborative process to develop a plan that promotes fairness for New York's taxpayers and safeguards the competitiveness of New York's economy.

Despite promises to the contrary, the federal government left in place the so-called "carried interest" loophole. Using a multi-state approach, Governor Cuomo will address this Wall Street giveaway.

Proposal: Reduce Taxes to Record Lows for Middle-Class New Yorkers

The Budget continues to lower Personal Income Tax rates for middle-class New Yorkers. With the middle class tax cuts of 2012, rates were lowered from 6.85 percent to 6.45 percent for taxpayers in the $40,000-$150,000 income bracket, and to 6.65 percent in the $150,000-$300,000 income bracket.

Under these new reforms, the rate will drop even further this year, to 6.33 percent and 6.57 respectively. They will continue to drop all the way to 5.5 percent and 6 percent, respectively, when the cuts are fully phased in by 2025.

These new lower tax rates will save middle class New Yorkers nearly $6.6 billion in just the first four years, and annual savings are projected to reach $4.2 billion and benefit 6 million filers by 2025. As the new rates phase in, they will be the state's lowest middle class tax rates in more than 70 years.

Proposal: Continue to Reduce the Local Property Tax Burden by Making the State's County Shared Services Panels Permanent

Governor Cuomo has made a historic commitment to reducing local property taxes for millions of New Yorkers. Taxpayers across the state have saved more than $17 billion through 2016 through the implementation of the 2 percent Property Tax Cap and the Property Tax Freeze programs alone. The State has eliminated growth in the local share of Medicaid, saving

counties $3.2 billion in FY 2018. All growth in the Medicaid program for counties is being absorbed by the State. The State is also assuming Medicaid administrative responsibilities for counties. In addition, Governor Cuomo spearheaded pension reform legislation to impose a new Tier VI for future employees and save taxpayers $80 billion over the next 30 years. The 2017 County-Wide Shared Services Initiative bolstered those efforts by stimulating local governments to find new efficiencies. In the first year alone, 34 counties submitted nearly 400 projects with more than $200 million in savings.

But more work remains. Property taxes are the largest tax burden for New York taxpayers, with the typical taxpayer paying 2.5 times more in property taxes than in income taxes. Statutory impediments prevent local governments from building on the savings achieved to date, and local governments have expressed a need for support and resources to drive additional progress.

New York State will take the next step forward to provide local governments with new tools to put money back in the pockets of middle-class families.

First, the state will provide $225 million in the FY 2019 budget to meet the match commitment of the County Wide Shared Services Initiative.

Second, Governor Cuomo will make the state's successful county-wide shared services panels permanent in order to institutionalize savings initiatives. The Governor proposes that state funding for local government performance aid be conditional on the continuation of shared services panels.

Third, Governor Cuomo will ease rules on the creation of local healthcare consortia to reduce local health insurance costs. One way to lower health insurance costs is to pool local governments health plans into healthcare consortia, but during the recent county-wide shared services planning process local governments raised concerns that there are regulatory burdens, especially for smaller governments, that make pooling health insurance among local government

legally or financially prohibitive. Therefore, Governor Cuomo is directing the New York State Department of Financial Services to publish guidance and provide technical assistance to local governments in order to ease the process of creating health consortia, specifically for smaller municipalities. The Governor has also directed the Department of State and other agencies to continue to work with local municipalities to examine other legal and policy impediments to shared services by municipalities, such as zoning and other functions, to be considered this session.

Fourth, to help communities across the state take advantage of Smart Street Lighting technology and its taxpayer savings and energy efficiency benefits, Governor Cuomo will launch a statewide Smart Street Lighting program to convert 500,000 street lights to LED technology by 2025. The New York Power Authority will lead this interdisciplinary and interagency initiative with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, the Department of Public Service, the Department of Environmental Conservation, the

Department of State and other State agencies to offer a one-stop-shop solution for municipalities to replace inefficient streetlights with LEDs and provide technical expertise on design, procurement and construction, along with financing and guidance on Internet of Things (IOT) devices that allow streetlights to function as part of a Smart City. NYPA will also explore modifications to existing street lighting utility tariffs in order to allow for greater cost savings from lighting conversions. This program has the potential to reduce energy consumption annually across the state by 482 gigawatt hours, the equivalent of 44,770 households, save taxpayers $87 million annually, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve the quality of light and safety of communities across the state.

Finally, Governor Cuomo will continue the state's local property tax relief program that will provide an average reduction of $380 in local property taxes to 2.6 million homeowners this year alone.

Part 2. Preparing the Workforce of Today & Tomorrow

Governor Cuomo has overseen a remarkable resurgence of New York's economy. Since he took office, New York's economy has created more than 1 million private sector jobs, and the State's unemployment rate has dropped from 8.3 percent to 4.7 percent. At the same time, Governor Cuomo's landmark minimum wage legislation is contributing to real income growth in New York that is out pacing growth nationwide.[55]

But in the midst of this economic growth today, Governor Cuomo recognizes the urgent necessity of preparing New Yorkers for the good-paying jobs of tomorrow. We can't stand still. New York's increased minimum wage must be the floor and not the goal for New York's workers. The forces of rapidly advancing technology and globalization demand that we prepare New Yorkers for the future – including in rapidly growing industries like clean energy, technology, and health care. On average, there will be nearly 362,000 job openings each year in New York over the next ten years,

and Governor Cuomo is committed to ensuring that New Yorkers are equipped to fill them.[56]

Many of those jobs will require a college degree, and that is why New York created the Excelsior Scholarship, becoming the first state in the nation to make free college a reality – because by 2024, nearly 3.5 million jobs in New York State will require an associate's degree or higher, which is roughly 420,000 more jobs than in 2014.[57] It's also why Governor Cuomo established the youth jobs tax credit and made historic investments in SUNY and CUNY. And, in many cases where a college degree isn't necessary, highly specialized job training—in advanced manufacturing, offshore wind turbine installations and use of advanced health technology—is needed to fill the jobs of today and tomorrow. That is why over the past seven years, Governor Cuomo has invested $300 million annually in career and technical education training and more than $265 million in job preparation and training programs for youth, in addition to the $155 million Youth Jobs Program and $47 million to create early college high

schools — an innovative program where high school students are trained in a specialty area, earn a free degree/certification and are first in line for a job.

Proposal: Expand the New York Youth Works Program

Governor Cuomo launched a program in 2012 to incentivize the hiring of at-risk youth, age 16 to 24, through business tax credits. Today, the New York Youth Jobs Program connects youth with stable, good-paying jobs and provides certified New York employers who hire them with tax credits up to $5,000 for full-time and up to $2,500 for part-time employment. The Program provides $30 million for 13 targeted areas with high youth unemployment—including Albany, Brookhaven, Buffalo, Hempstead, Mount Vernon, New Rochelle, New York, Rochester, Schenectady, Syracuse, Utica, White Plains and Yonkers—and an additional $20 million for young people who live in other areas of the state. Since its inception, over 78,000 youth have been hired in the New York Youth Jobs program, by more than 2,200

participating employers, and in 2017, more than 26,000 young people were hired through this program. Between 2010 and 2016, minority unemployment decreased 8 percent, from 25 percent to 17 percent.

To build on the success of the Youth Jobs Program, Governor Cuomo proposes to increase the maximum credit available to certified New York employers by 50 percent—raising the maximum tax credit from $5,000 to $7,500 for certified youth employed full-time and from $2,500 to $3,750 for those employed part-time. In addition, to help participants better-develop the skills needed to advance from an entry-level position toward a chosen career, the Governor will direct the Department of Labor to align and connect employers and youth participating in the Youth Jobs Program with regional workforce development efforts of SUNY, CUNY and New York's BOCES. This alignment will leverage State workforce investments and augment skills development that employers are able to provide on-site with additional workforce support in the classroom and online.

Proposal: Invest in New York's Workforce and Future

There are still "skills gaps" to be filled so that all New Yorkers have access to a better job in many of the state's growing industries. In many ways, while we have made great strides, our current workforce training system remains from a different era.

Governor Cuomo will build on his record of economic achievements by taking historic steps to strengthen workforce development in New York. The Governor proposes a comprehensive workforce development program to make sure all New Yorkers have access to training to meeting our growing workforce needs.

- **Establish a new, $175 million Consolidated Funding Application for workforce investments through the Regional Economic Development Councils, targeted in emerging fields:** Establishing the Consolidated Funding Application for economic development funds is one of the Governor's signature economic development achievements—a bottom-up approach that brings together higher education,

industry and government leaders to plan the future of their region. The State has invested more than $5.4 billion through the REDCs that have funded more than 6,300 projects and supports more than 220,000 jobs across the state. Building on the success of this bottom-up model, establishing a new Consolidated Funding Application for workforce investments would support strategic regional efforts that meet businesses' short-term workforce needs, improve regional talent pipelines, expand apprenticeships, and address the long-term needs of expanding industries—with a particular focus on emerging fields with growing demand for jobs like clean energy and technology. Funds would also support efforts to improve the economic security of women, youth and other populations that face significant barriers to career advancement. The funding for the workforce CFA will consist both of $150 million in new, flexible resources and $25 million in existing streams of workforce funding.

- **Create new Office of Workforce Development, headed by a Director of Workforce Development, which will oversee all workforce training programs for the state—including the new CFA program:** Currently, there are dozens of programs available in various agencies, but if we are to maximize our capacity to meet the state's workforce needs, the state needs to better integrate this fragmented process. The Office of Workforce Development will serve as a focal point of accountability and coordination for these programs, establishing standards for program performance and ensuring alignment with the economic development goals of the state and the individual regions. The Director will serve on the State Workforce Investment Board, the Strategic Implementation Assessment Team (which reviews proposals submitted by the 10 Regional Economic Development Councils), and the Regional Community College Councils.

- **Create a One-Stop Shop to help workers and businesses navigate the State's workforce development programs:** Currently, workers seeking jobs in New York State do not have a single, centralized resource to help them navigate the support programs that the State has to offer. Similarly, businesses lack a central point of access to the wide range of services the State provides to assist them in hiring employees. The Director of Workforce Development will create and oversee a One-Stop Shop for New York's Workforce that provides this information to workers and businesses through a straightforward and useful online portal.
- **Expand the State's capacity for data driven workforce development planning and map New York's innovation economy:** Communities across Upstate New York are seeing an economic resurgence, thanks in large part to little known, fast-growing innovation economies—from the computer gaming industry in Albany and Troy to

data and software companies in Central New York's drone corridor to startups coming out of RIT and RPI. Unfortunately, we don't currently have the data to map the workforce needs of New York's economy effectively. Monroe County Community College currently utilizes an innovative data mining methodology to identify local workforce needs with more precision than BLS and Census data. The Director of Workforce Development will lead an initiative to take this methodology to scale, ensuring that all regions have access to the data needed to develop sector-based workforce development plans. This information will allow New York to better target its workforce investments and better attract top talent and top companies to the communities that need it most.

Proposal: Develop the Next Generation of Nonprofit Leaders

In recognition of the importance of the nonprofit sector for New York State's economic and social well-being, Governor Cuomo created a Cabinet-level position to address nonprofit issues and serve as a voice for the sector within the administration, as well as the $120 million Nonprofit Infrastructure Capital Investment Program, the largest of its kind in the nation. New York State's nonprofit sector employs 18 percent of the state's private sector workforce,[58] but the sector is experiencing a personnel crisis, with higher than average turnover and difficulty recruiting and retaining qualified workers to fill critical positions.

Governor Cuomo will take a series of actions to support the nonprofit sector, address its growing human resources needs and improve the services that nonprofit organizations provide on the State's behalf. Governor Cuomo will improve the quality of available fringe benefits by exploring the feasibility of enabling nonprofit organizations to access group insurance coverage

through the NYSHIP Empire Plan to make nonprofit employment more appealing. Governor Cuomo will also create the Nonprofit Educational Assistance Initiative to improve access to educational assistance and promote career advancement scholarships for nonprofit employees. In addition, New York State will make business services available to nonprofits and develop strong pipelines to recruit recent graduates, retirees, immigrants and veterans to work in the human services sector. Finally, in conjunction with SUNY and CUNY, New York State will host a human services workforce summit to highlight best practices in recruitment and retention and create a Nonprofit Workforce Development Steering Committee to work with the director of the new Governor's Office of Workforce Innovation to identify strategies to improve workforce development in the nonprofit sector.

Proposal: Expand the Murphy Institute for Worker Education and Labor Studies into the CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies

New York State has always been at the forefront of the labor movement, and Governor Cuomo has carried on that legacy by fighting for organized labor, including using union labor to rebuild the nation's infrastructure and last year championing legislation to allow the full deductibility of union dues from New York State taxes. Today, New York State has the highest rate of union membership in the nation.[59]

The Joseph S. Murphy Institute for Worker Education and Labor Studies, which was established in collaboration with New York City labor unions in 1984 at Queens College, is a testament to New York's commitment to the labor movement. Created to meet the higher education needs of working adults, the Institute now serves more than 1,200 adult and traditional-aged students across the CUNY system in undergraduate and graduate degree and certificate programs focused on labor-related issues. The Institute provides higher

education programs in three general categories, including labor, urban studies, and worker education/workforce development.

Recognizing the invaluable role that the Institute plays in the CUNY community and as a center for labor discourse, Governor Cuomo proposes expanding the institute into the CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies.

Part 3. Continuing the Bottom Up Regional Economic Development Strategy

Governor Cuomo knows that the American Dream centers on economic security and mobility. He has fought to remove barriers to opportunity, strengthen the middle class, and build pathways to help give every New Yorker a chance to succeed and build a better life for themselves and their family. Under Governor Cuomo's leadership, New York has transformed its approach to economic development and adopted a bottom-up strategy that empowers local communities all across the state.

With Regional Economic Development Councils, economic development plans are now regionally-based and performance driven, putting an end to the Albany-led, one-size-fits-all approach of the past. Since the beginning of the Governor's administration, New York has added over 1,004,300 private sector jobs and New York now has more than 8 million private sector jobs, more than at any point in state history. Governor Cuomo has also fought for economic justice, securing New York's groundbreaking $15 minimum wage and enacting critical protections for New York's workers. Today, New York State remains the global beacon of economic opportunity.

Proposal: Invest $750 Million for Round Eight of the Regional Economic Development Councils

Governor Cuomo created the Regional Economic Development Council competition in 2011 to develop regional economic development plans through a bottom-up approach that brought together higher education, industry and government leaders to plan the future of

their region. The State has invested more than $5.4 billion through the REDCs that has funded more than 6,300 projects and supports more than 220,000 jobs across the state. To build on the success of the REDC program, the Governor proposes continuing this regional economic development approach with an eighth round of the REDC awards with $750 million to fund regional priority projects.

Proposal: Launch Round Three of the Downtown Revitalization Initiative

Governor Cuomo has made historic investments in economic development infrastructure projects across New York State, and he is committed to boosting local economies by transforming communities into vibrant neighborhoods where the next generation of New Yorkers will want to live, work and raise a family. Through the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI), New York State has awarded twenty communities with $10 million each. These efforts are making meaningful

improvements to the quality of life and attractiveness of New York for residents and tourists alike.

Governor Cuomo is committed to building on this progress. Many communities across the state still face mounting needs to invest in their downtowns. More than 100 communities in all ten regions of the state competed for the first 20 DRI awards. Each of these represents an opportunity to transform a struggling downtown into a thriving community that can become a local and regional economic engine for growth.

To give communities the tools they need to select and fuel targeted revitalization strategies, and build on the Governor's proven track record in energizing the state economy, New York State will expand its already-successful Downtown Revitalization Initiative with an additional $100 million, providing up to $10 million for awards in each region. Together, these investments will ensure that communities have the tools they need to boost their local economies and transform downtown neighborhoods.

Proposal: Drive New York's Drone Economy Forward

Under Governor Cuomo's leadership, New York State has made historic investments in the Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) industry, positioning New York at the forefront of this emerging industry. New York State is home to one of the nation's seven federally designated commercial drone test sites, and since 2015, Governor Cuomo has invested $30 million to develop the world's first 50-mile "drone highway," committed $5 million to grow the drone industry in New York, and launched GENIUS NY, the world's largest drone business accelerator program. These significant investments have pioneered the development of New York's drone industry and created hundreds of high-paying, technology jobs that move the drone economy forward.

To further develop this innovative workforce in New York State, Governor Cuomo will accelerate a business expansion plan to bring in more jobs through the Upstate Revitalization Initiative and continue to invest in the drone corridor. To support the State's commitment to the drone industry, Governor Cuomo will

also continue Unmanned Aerial Systems operations and training opportunities at the State Preparedness Training Center (SPTC) in Oriskany. The former Oneida County Airport has been transformed into a multidiscipline complex that affords state, local, and federal agencies opportunities for high performance scenario-based training. In 2016, nearly 16,000 people were trained at the center, most of whom work in law enforcement, firefighting, emergency management, environmental conservation and public health. The SPTC will continue to offer a drone awareness workshop and basic UAS operator and advanced UAS operator courses.

By investing in drone companies that are at the forefront of this innovative industry and providing trainings to equip New Yorkers with the tools to use this exciting technology, Governor Cuomo will lay the groundwork for future job creation and establish New York as the drone capital of the nation.

Proposal: Become the National Leader in Industrial Hemp Production

The emerging industrial hemp industry has the power to transform the agricultural economy in the Southern Tier and throughout New York State by creating jobs for both the farmers growing hemp and the manufacturers processing it. The Hemp Business Journal estimates that the retail value of all industrial hemp products can nearly triple in the United States, from $688 million in 2016 to $1.8 billion per year by 2020, and Governor Cuomo is committed to attracting and retaining hemp revenue and jobs in New York State. [60] Under Governor Cuomo's leadership, New York State has made remarkable progress in advancing research into this emerging industry. Last year, Governor Cuomo convened the first-ever New York State Industrial Hemp Summit and Working Group and committed $10 million to support hemp research, production and processing. In one year, New York State has more than tripled the number of growers participating in industrial hemp

research, resulting in the planting of approximately 2,000 acres of the crop.

Despite growing production values, the U.S. still relies heavily on imported hemp plants and seeds, which are expensive and often poorly adapted for New York's agricultural environment. To avoid long-term dependence on seed from other states and countries, the State must begin to produce its own unique seed to drive New York's industrial hemp industry forward.

To establish New York as the leader of this emerging industry, Governor Cuomo will put forward a comprehensive package to support the industrial hemp industry at every stage of the production process. First, New York State will invest $650,000 in a brand-new $3.2 million industrial hemp processing facility in the Greater Binghamton area. Second, the State will help import thousands of pounds of industrial hemp seed into New York, ensuring that farmers have access to a high-quality product and easing the administrative burden on farmers seeking to secure this substance. Third, New York State will invest $2 million in a seed certification

and breeding program in New York to begin to produce unique New York seed. Finally, New York will host an Industrial Hemp Research Forum in February to bring together researchers and academics with business and processors to develop ways to further boost industry research in the Southern Tier and across New York State.

Proposal: Grow New York's Regional Agricultural Commodities

Governor Cuomo's concentrated focus on regional strengths has led to extraordinary success in food and agriculture industries. New York has a diverse agricultural landscape with regional concentrations of various crops, including horticulture and shellfish on Long Island, hardwood timber in the North Country, Concord grapes in Western New York, apples in the Hudson Valley, and industrial hemp in the Southern Tier.

The Governor's New York State Grown & Certified Program, launched in 2016, expanded rapidly in its first year and has formed partnerships with retailers, schools, hospitals, and correctional facilities to increase demand

for regional New York foods. The Governor's summits on dairy, yogurt, craft beverages, and industrial hemp have also led to increased entrepreneurialism, removed regulatory obstacles, and grown markets and sales. But there is still significant room to expand the state's agriculture industry as a driver of economic growth: While New York ranks in the top 10 for the number of agricultural commodities it grows and sells, it ranks only 26th in the value of agricultural sales.

Governor Cuomo will launch phase two of the New York State Grown & Certified program, expanding the number of producers and commodities in the program as we develop a concentrated consumer advertising program to build awareness and preference for New York State agricultural products. In addition, Governor Cuomo will host two new summits focused on forestry and wood products and Concord grapes to bring stakeholders together to identify challenges and develop solutions that will unlock the economic potential of these commodities.

Proposal: Promote New York Agriculture Through Taste NY and New Marketing

Governor Cuomo has championed New York State agriculture through landmark programs to promote local products and expand market access for producers. The Taste NY Initiative, launched in 2013, has proven to be incredibly successful in raising the visibility of New York's high-quality food and agricultural products. Over the last three years, Taste NY has helped 1,100 local companies reach consumers across the globe and produced $13.1 million in annual sales. New York State Grown & Certified, launched in 2016, has also begun to achieve brand recognition. In the program's first year, over 100 farms have been certified, representing over 46,000 acres of farmland, and the program holds great potential to help sell more dairy, produce and other farm commodities.

By expanding marketing efforts to highlight New York agriculture products and strengthening the Taste NY program, the State will help take New York agriculture to a new level. To build on the success of

these promotional initiatives, Governor Cuomo will make a series of targeted investments to increase awareness and trust in the quality of New York food across the state and nation. Governor Cuomo will:

- Transform the Taste NY website into a one-stop resource for residents, visitors, and business-to-business connections. Travelers will be able to easily locate local foods, breweries, wineries, farms, and cuisine trails near them. Businesses such as stores, caterers, and event planners will be able to connect with these companies and purchase their New York made products.
- Identify and highlight ten core Taste NY products—one from each Regional Economic Development Council region—throughout the State. These core products will be consistently identified and displayed at Welcome Centers across the State, which will build Taste NY brand awareness and consistency, as well as pique customer interest in discovering products from each region. By expanding marketing efforts to

highlight New York agriculture products and strengthening the Taste NY program, the State will help take New York agriculture to a new level.

- Build a Taste NY presence into new infrastructure projects, beginning with airports and train stations. State agencies completing or directing the completion of public infrastructure projects will consult with the Department of Agriculture and Markets to determine the suitability of a Taste NY presence.
- Host at least five regional Business-to-Business Taste NY Networking Events to support marketing opportunities for New York farms and food and beverage businesses. These events will introduce local New York vendors to buyers from institutions, retail locations, restaurants, bars, distributors, and other businesses in search of expanding their local offerings. Events will include sections to highlight New York State Grown & Certified participants, creating a one-

stop shop event for distributors and retailers carrying fresh and processed products.

Proposal: Reimagine Rochester's Riverfront

Governor Cuomo has been committed to revitalizing urban communities across the state, including through the groundbreaking Downtown Revitalization Initiative and the Upstate Revitalization Initiative that have become national models for urban renewal. In Rochester, New York's third largest city, the State has made major investments to strengthen the downtown community, including more than $110 million committed to projects in and around Rochester's center city, which has leveraged more than $800 million in private investment and led to the creation of the new Rochester Downtown Innovation Zone.

A key driver of any major urban revitalization, especially among former industrial cities in the northeast, has been significant improvement to and investment in their waterfront. This is especially true in Buffalo, where improvements to Canalside, Inner

Harbor, Outer Harbor, and the Buffalo River have been instrumental in driving investment, growth, and the overall sense of pride in the city. The Genesee River waterfront that runs through the heart of Rochester has the same transformative potential – but has been underutilized for decades.

New York State can help recreate Rochester's riverfront and further fuel the Flower City's resurgence. The State will launch a new focused development strategy called "ROC The Riverway" to expand access to and capitalize on the city's waterfront. Consistent with the Finger Lakes Forward URI plan, this initiative will support the newly updated Local Waterfront Revitalization Program plan and will be developed in partnership with the City and stakeholders up and down the Genesee to drive economic, environmental and recreational opportunities along the Rochester riverfront.

Proposal: Create the Photonics-Related Businesses Attraction Fund

Under Governor Cuomo's leadership, New York State is restoring New York's legacy as a leader in technology and innovation by making locally-driven investments in frontier technologies. In the Finger Lakes, for example, New York State has attracted and supported AIM Photonics, a public-private partnership of the overall Finger Lakes Forward revitalization effort — the region's strategic plan for economic growth, focused on the industry cluster of optics, photonics and imaging.

New York has committed significant funding to build a new Testing Assembly and Packaging facility at the Eastman Business Park in Rochester, equip it with state of the art tools, create chip wafers at the SUNY Poly nanofab in Albany, and to operate AIM for its five-year commitment. With these investments, the State has set the stage for AIM Photonics to be the cornerstone of the emerging photonics industry in the Finger Lakes.

Building on the progress to date, the State will take the next step in its strategic approach to fuel the

growth of the photonics cluster economy. New York State will dedicate a $30 million Photonics Attraction Fund through the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council specifically to attract integrated photonics companies to set up their manufacturing operations in the greater Rochester area. Thanks to the world renowned AIM Photonics consortium, the Finger Lakes is already a leader in photonics research and development. The additional State funding will leverage this unique asset to bring the businesses and the jobs of tomorrow to the Finger Lakes region.

Proposal: Bring the New York Islanders Home with a World-Class Arena and Redevelopment at Belmont Park

Since taking office, Governor Cuomo has made unprecedented investments in the economic future of Long Island, from revitalizing local communities to promoting growth industries like the life sciences industry to driving tourism to the region's beaches and other destinations. Today, those investments are paying

off: unemployment has fallen from 7.4 percent when Governor Cuomo took office to 4.7 percent today.

There are still significant opportunities to leverage Long Island's unique assets and drive economic growth. Recognizing the tremendous opportunity to redevelop the underutilized space around the iconic Belmont Park, Empire State Development (ESD) issued a Request for Proposals to develop two surface parking lots that are only filled once a year for the Belmont Stakes.

The winning proposal transforms Belmont Park from a seasonal horse racing track to a year-round, internationally recognized destination for sports, entertainment, recreation, retail and hospitality—and the new home of the New York Islanders. The comprehensive $1 billion plan includes an 18,000-seat, year-round arena that will host the Islanders as well as a new 435,000-square-foot retail and entertainment complex, a new hotel, and other community amenities. The transformational plan will strengthen the local economy, boost tourism, increase visitor spending and

stimulate local businesses. To accommodate New Yorkers and visitors traveling to the brand-new facility, the Long Island Railroad is also committed to developing a plan to expand LIRR service to Belmont Park Station for events year-round.

Part 4. Building 21st Century Infrastructure

New York is a special state, where daring, boldness and vision meet talent, ability and capacity. Dating back to the Erie Canal, New Yorkers have shown that infrastructure is one of the great engines of economic growth.

But somewhere along the way New York lost that building spirit. For decades, this state and this nation failed to build for the future. We lived off the legacy of our forebears, and we suffered the consequences of our inaction.

New York has known another way, and today under Governor Cuomo's leadership we are moving forward again. With a $100 billion infrastructure

program, the most aggressive and ambitious building program in the nation, New York is once again building for the future.

We are building new airports to serve as the 21st century gateways that this state deserves. Our roads and bridges, the arteries that connect our state, are being rebuilt with a record investment. And we are moving forward with bold projects all across the state: a new Moynihan Train Hall that will be the world class transit hub that New York deserves; 1.2 million square foot expansion of the Javits Convention Center; a new Kosciuszko Bridge, the first major new bridge in New York City in more than 50 years; new train stations in Rochester and Schenectady; a $6.6 billion transformation of the LIRR; a record MTA Capital Plan.

And we are doing it with the dedicated men and women of organized labor. In New York, we build with union labor because we believe in the talent and capacity of union labor, and we believe in supporting the good, high paying jobs of the middle class—the same middle class that labor created in the first place.

The economic benefits of our investments reach far beyond the jobs created on the construction site; they touch entire communities where constructions workers live and shop, breathing new life into communities across the state. They have a ripple effect that can jumpstart economic growth across the state.

Today New York is daring to imagine a better New York, and we know it is possible. In August 2017, we opened the first span of the Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge to replace the aging Tappan Zee Bridge after 20 years of talk. It is a beautiful, iconic new bridge, and it boldly proclaims that the New York blood still runs in our veins.

Building is what made New York, New York, and it's going to continue making New York the leader that it is. This year, we are doubling down on our commitment to build for the 21st century.

Proposal: Launch New NY Broadband Program Round III Awards to Achieve Governor Cuomo's Goal of "Broadband for All"

In 2015, the Governor created the $500 million New NY Broadband Program, the largest and most ambitious State investment in broadband, with the goal of ensuring all New Yorkers have access to high-speed broadband. At the Program's inception, approximately 30 percent of New Yorkers (2.42 million homes) lacked access to high-speed connections.

Since its launch, the Governor has announced two rounds of awards, which, together with State-secured commitments by Charter Communications and other companies, have addressed 2.3 million homes and extended broadband access to over 98 percent of New Yorkers. The program's innovative and transparent "reverse-auction" structure has ensured high-speed broadband efficiently reaches the most remote and high-cost areas of the State.

This year Governor Cuomo will announce Round III awards to address the remaining 2 percent of New

Yorkers, connecting approximately 120,000 locations. Round III is expected to catalyze more than $360 million in total investment, including $225 million in State funding. Round III projects that address eligible locations will also have access to matching funds in federal Connect America Fund support through the State's unique partnership with the Federal Communications Commission. After Round III, it is anticipated that 99.9 percent of New Yorkers will have commitments for high-speed broadband access, with all but 1 percent having access to 100 mbps service or better.

Proposal: Expand Cashless Tolling to the Entire New York State Thruway and Port Authority Crossings

Cashless tolling has been a pillar of the Governor's effort to modernize our infrastructure all across the state. By eliminating the need to stop at a toll, this technology improves the driving experience, speeds traffic flow, and benefits those who live near toll collection points by reducing congestion-related

emissions. The Governor championed the implementation of cashless tolling at the MTA Bridges and Tunnels, which was completed in 2017, and he also announced in 2017 the expansion of cashless tolling to the New York State Thruway's Harriman and Grand Island toll facilities. To date, drivers have saved 2.1 million hours as a result of cashless tolling implementation on MTA crossings. Cashless tolling is not only faster for the commuter and better for the environment, but also more secure. The new electronic toll structures are designed with state-of-the-art homeland security devices and license plate readers that notify police are on site of a violation or suspicious vehicle.

The positive public feedback has prompted stakeholders to request cashless tolling be expanded across the Thruway. With more motorists using the Thruway system than ever before, cashless tolling represents a critical step in minimizing traffic disruptions and reducing congestion. The 2018 Thruway budget forecasts total traffic of 269.7 million vehicles,

reflecting growth of 2.8 million vehicles or 1.1 percent above revised 2017 levels. Currently, these vehicles must come to a complete stop or reduce their speed to 5 – 20 mph at toll collection plazas, all while in close proximity to other vehicles. This creates an environment ripe for crashes and delays.

To expand these benefits across the state, Governor Cuomo plans to implement cashless tolling technology on all toll collection points along the New York State Thruway. Additionally, the Governor has also urged the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ) to study the possibility of installing cashless toll collection on all PANYNJ operated Bridges and Tunnels. When complete, users of the Thruway, from New York City to Buffalo, will experience reductions in traffic congestion and improvements in travel times. The project will utilize Design-Build construction to reduce costs and accelerate the construction schedule. Cashless tolling throughout the Thruway system will be operational in 2020.

Proposal: Modernize the New York State Thruway Service Areas Through a Public- Private Partnership

Governor Cuomo has made historic investments to improve and upgrade New York State infrastructure and its ancillary services, especially on the state's longest interstate superhighway. These accomplishments include the 2011 enactment of design-build legislation spurring the construction of the Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge, the addition of 69 electric vehicle charging stations at Thruway service areas, expanded Taste NY stores and farm markets at Thruway service areas, and unprecedented investments to promote New York's world-class attractions, including regional welcome centers like the Mohawk Valley Welcome Center, which opened in June 2017, and the future Western New York Welcome Center on Grand Island, which is set to debut later this year.

While these initiatives help create an improved experience for travelers on the Thruway, more improvements can be made to ensure a world-class transportation system. The existing 27 service areas are

in dire need of improvements to customer amenities, technology, commercial truck services and overall facility energy efficiency.

Governor Cuomo proposes issuing a Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEI) in the spring of 2018 to reimagine and modernize Thruway service areas through a public-private partnership, to be followed by a Request for Proposals (RFP) later in the year. To ensure the service areas offer all modern conveniences while reducing their environmental impact, Governor Cuomo proposes to make the service areas Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified, install solar arrays and irrigation free landscaping, increase truck parking and commercial services, expand and enhance customer-friendly offerings, and modernize the entire service area, farm stands and tourism centers, thereby better serving all motorists now and well into the future.

Proposal: Promote the Integration of Autonomous Vehicles in New York State

Under Governor Cuomo's leadership New York State has become a national leader for embracing and implementing new and cutting edge technology. From investing in emerging industries like photonics, nanotechnology, and drones, to the fostering of the rapidly expanding electric vehicle industry, Governor Cuomo has demonstrated the leadership and courage necessary to bring New York to the forefront of technological advances and to capitalize on the economic development that comes with such investments. In 2017 Governor Cuomo worked with the Legislature to pass New York's first autonomous vehicle legislation, officially putting New York in the consciousness of autonomous vehicle manufacturers. As a direct result of this legislation, General Motors announced it will begin testing their line of autonomous vehicles on New York City streets in 2018. Furthermore, the University at Buffalo (UB) also received funding from a two-year grant from New York State Energy Research and Development

Authority and the New York State Department of Transportation, to test and evaluate the safety and reliability of the Self-Driving Electric Bus, Olli, developed by Local Motors. UB is evaluating the technical and economic feasibility of deploying Olli for educational and medical campuses, and the performance of the vehicle during inclement weather, with the goal to conduct comprehensive AV testing on UB campus roads involving the self-Driving Olli bus, the Carnegie Mellon University's autonomous vehicle, and a Lincoln MKX outfitted by UB for autonomous-driving.

To expand on the success of the 2017 legislation and encourage more autonomous vehicle manufacturers to operate in New York, the State must continue to remove legal barriers and further promote autonomous vehicle operations in the state. While states like Pennsylvania, Michigan, California, Arizona and Ohio have opened their doors and lightened regulations to attract the industry, few states offer as diverse a testing environment for this technology than New York. From the urban streets of New York City to the vast rural roads

of the North Country, with seasons that range from steamy summer days to the coldest snowy winters, New York offers a wide variety of conditions necessary for the rapid advancement of autonomous vehicle technology.

To ensure New York State remains a home for emerging technology and becomes a destination for autonomous vehicles, Governor Cuomo will champion legislation that will extend the current program and modify the statutory construct to further encourage testing within the state and prepare New York for the future integration of this technology into everyday life.

Proposal: Invest in New Mass Transit, New Roads and Bridges

Governor Cuomo's nation-leading $100 billion infrastructure plan, launched in 2016, is rebuilding our roads, bridges, airports and public transportation and advancing iconic projects all across the state. These investments are supporting good paying union jobs and laying the groundwork for the next century of growth.

In 2018, New York State will continue this landmark infrastructure program, investing $11.7 billion to transform the State's transportation infrastructure. The State Department of Transportation will pave 2,000 miles of road and repair or rehabilitate 500 bridges, and the New York State Thruway Authority will renew an additional 170 lane miles, repair or rehabilitate 25 bridges, and complete the historic new Governor Mario M. Cuomo bridge in 2018.

Proposal: Take Steps to Revitalize Red Hook

Red Hook, Brooklyn and its surrounding communities are emerging as a hub of possibility and opportunity. Arts are flourishing, distilleries and food producers are multiplying, and new investments have generated jobs and revitalized the commercial district.

Still, the Red Hook community faces significant challenges. The rate of poverty is almost double that of Brooklyn and New York City as a whole. Residents are not well served by public transportation, leading to longer commutes, challenges in accessing healthcare and

other critical services, and reduced economic mobility. And five years later, the community still continues its work to recover from the devastation wrought by Hurricane Sandy.

Governor Cuomo is calling on the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to explore options for improving and consolidating maritime operations by relocating activities in Red Hook to South Brooklyn. This study would focus on the potential for transferring and consolidating of maritime operations from the current Red Hook site just South of Brooklyn Bridge Park to the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal in Sunset Park, working with the City of New York, with the twin goals of (1) consolidating and improving the maritime shipping activities in south Brooklyn and (2) freeing up the Port Authority's Red Hook land for more productive community uses.

In addition, the Governor is also calling on the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to study options for improving transportation access to the Red Hook area and surrounding communities, including the

potential extension of subway service from lower Manhattan to a new station in Red Hook through an underwater tunnel. Once a plan for how to modernize and potentially consolidate maritime activities becomes clear and the MTA study is completed, a community-based planning process with key participation by elected representatives and interested stakeholders would be expected to recommend the appropriate redevelopment alternatives for any Port Authority land no longer needed for maritime needs.

Proposal: Build a New Metro-North Station at Woodbury Common

Under the Governor's leadership, New York State has made unprecedented investments to strengthen and expand Metro-North, the nation's second largest commuter rail system.[61] Through the largest MTA capital plan in history, New York has upgraded stations across the system and is building four new stations in the Bronx.

Since it opened in 1985, Woodbury Common Premium Outlets has seen significant growth, expanding

in size by nearly tenfold. Today Woodbury Common attracts roughly 13 million visitors a year and generates $1.3 billion in gross sales.[62] The increase in visitors has led to significant congestion, and yet there is no rail option to provide visitors an alternative to driving. By spearheading the accelerated transformation of the Route 32 corridor at Woodbury Common, Governor Cuomo has already taken action to ease congestion in the area. Building on this effort, Governor Cuomo will support a review of the potential for a public private partnership with Simon Properties to bring a new Metro-North station to Woodbury Common. New rail access to Woodbury Common will ease traffic congestion and also serve anticipated increases in rail ridership demand from the Legoland and Empire Resorts casino developments.

Proposal: Redevelop and Rebrand Stewart International

Governor Cuomo recognizes that our airports are the gateways to New York and are essential to remaining

competitive in today's global economy. Under the Governor's leadership, New York has made unprecedented investments to transform airports across the state into the world-class airports worthy of the Empire State, from building an entirely new LaGuardia Airport and embarking on the redevelopment of JFK in New York City, to launching the Upstate Airport Economic Development and Revitalization Competition to reimagine our Upstate airports.

Stewart Airport, in Orange County, has long had unfulfilled potential to grow flight activity, passenger volume, and catalyze economic development and tourism in the Mid-Hudson Valley region, while also providing an attractive airport alternative for the metro NYC area. With the recent commencement of regularly scheduled trans-Atlantic international flights from Norwegian Airlines, a major discount international carrier, passenger volume is beginning to dramatically grow. International flight activity in turn is catalyzing increased interest in expanding domestic flights by domestic airlines to support connecting flights.

To prepare the airport for 21st century growth, Governor Cuomo will advance enhancements and initiatives to unlock the full potential of the facility:

- **Build a new permanent U.S. Customs and Border Protection Federal Inspection Station:** The airport currently employs a temporary federal inspection station (FIS) that involves putting moveable walls in place when international passengers are arriving. The temporary FIS restricts the ability to handle domestic flights when it is in place. Governor Cuomo proposes a $27 million investment by the Port Authority to build a modern FIS that meets that enables Stewart Airport to meet the needs of and continue to grow international passenger service and allows for concurrent domestic and international flight arrivals. The $27 million project will expand the existing terminal by 20,000 square feet and is targeted to be completed in 2021.

- **Change the name of the airport from Stewart Airport to New York International at Stewart Field:** The current name does not communicate to travelers and visitors booking flights to the region a geographic sense of place. Changing the name to New York International at Stewart Field will help with attracting additional flight service to the region, while preserving the heritage of the Stewart family name in the region.
- **Rebrand the airport bus service to New York City into a New York State-themed Stewart Express:** With the start of Norwegian Airlines service to and from Stewart, the Port Authority arranged for a private bus carrier, CoachUSA, to provide express service from the airport to and from the Port Authority Bus Terminal in midtown Manhattan on a schedule corresponding with Norwegian Airlines' flights. CoachUSA has called the service the 'Stewart Express' – offering 80-minute travel times between New York City and the airport. The express bus service will be re-

launched and rebranded with New York State-themed colors to help support the marketing efforts for the airport overall, and tourism in the region.

- **Advance sustainability and environmental goals through a solar PV Project at the airport:** The Port Authority will launch an RFP to create a solar "carport" photovoltaic system at the airport. The solar installation will be constructed over sections of the parking lot outside the main terminal building utilizing overhead canopies supporting arrays of solar panels. The project, which will be privately financed on a long-term power purchase agreement, could generate 1,100 kW and produce most of the electricity used by the main terminal on an annual basis, in addition to facilitating electric vehicle charging stations for the expected growth in electric vehicles.

Proposal: Build the AirTrain to Create Train-to-Plane Access to LaGuardia Airport

LaGuardia Airport is a pillar of New York's transportation network and a key driver of economic growth. Recognizing its significance to the state and the entire region, in July 2015, Governor Cuomo and Vice President Joe Biden unveiled a masterplan to redevelop LaGuardia airport. The $8 billion project, nearly three-quarters of which represents private funding, is transforming LaGuardia Airport into a single, unified facility with expanded transportation access, significantly increased taxiway space and best-in-class passenger amenities.

However, LaGuardia remains the only major East Coast airport without a direct rail link. The lack of public transit options forces passengers to rely heavily on private cars, for-hire-vehicles and taxis to reach the airport.

To address this problem, this year, Governor Cuomo will call upon the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to expeditiously authorize the development

of an AirTrain connection between LaGuardia and Willets Point in Queens, creating access to both the number 7 subway train and the Long Island Rail Road, which offer service to Grand Central, Penn Station and all of Long Island. The project is expected to be developed through a public-private partnership, leveraging significant private capital and providing access to midtown Manhattan in under 30 minutes. The Port Authority should begin the environmental review process as soon as possible with the goal of starting construction in 2019.

Proposal: Construct an Inland Port in Central New York to Improve Regional Trade

Governor Cuomo's historic $100 billion infrastructure program is rebuilding the state's bridges, airports and railways and positioning New York State to meet the needs of the changing global economy. Projects like the new Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge are improving the flow of freight and leading to faster

shipping times and lower costs for businesses and consumers throughout the region.

The state's roadways, however, remain among the most heavily utilized in the nation, and the resulting congestion adds significantly to the cost of moving freight while increasing greenhouse gas emissions. To facilitate the economical movement of freight by waterways and rail, Governor Cuomo has invested hundreds of millions to renew and modernize the State's rail hub and port infrastructure.

Building upon Governor Cuomo's unparalleled investment in modernizing our infrastructure, New York will construct an inland port in the Town of DeWitt that will facilitate the movement of containerized freight by rail as opposed to truck. This strategic initiative will improve the economic competitiveness of import/export businesses in the Central New York region while leveraging the privately-funded rail infrastructure serving the region. The inland port will serve to reduce the transportation costs of moving containerized freight between the Port of New York and New Jersey and the

Central New York region by as much as $500 per container; retain and create freight-related jobs; reduce vehicle emissions; and remove large trucks from both the New York metropolitan area and from Interstate 81.

Proposal: Move I-81 Forward with Expanded EIS

Governor Cuomo has been a strong advocate for revitalizing Syracuse's I-81 viaduct, a vital transportation corridor that is nearing the end of its useful life, and he has pushed to carefully explore every option to ensure what is best for the economic vitality of the Central New York region. In 2017, the Governor directed the New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) to initiate an independent study of tunnel and depressed highway alternatives for the I-81 corridor. DOT assigned the task to world renowned tunnel engineering experts, who completed the independent study in November 2017. The study concluded that while a tunnel is the costliest option, it is

technically feasible and could be studied in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The current EIS for this project includes the viaduct replacement and community grid alternatives but does not include a tunnel alternative. The addition of a tunnel alternative for the I-81 Viaduct Project would provide an opportunity to fully evaluate and allow public comments on all three alternatives as this critical project progresses through the state and federal environmental review and approval process.

Governor Cuomo is now directing DOT to add the tunnel alternative to the current EIS for further review and consideration, which will ensure public and advisory agencies can provide comments on all three feasible alternatives—the viaduct replacement, community grid, and tunnel alternative—and the detailed engineering, social, economic and environmental studies performed for each. The final stage of this review will proceed according to federal and state regulations and will occur after the formal public hearing and analysis of all comments received on the public distribution of the

Draft EIS. Final alternative selection will be published in the project's Final EIS and Record of Decision.

Proposal: Advance the Transformative Long Island Tunnel Proposal

Travel from Long Island to Westchester County and Connecticut is severely constrained due to congested roadways, limited egress, long travel times, and lack of direct connectivity. In 2015, Governor Cuomo directed $5 million to the Department of Transportation to examine the feasibility of a tunnel connecting Long Island to Westchester County or Connecticut, which could reduce traffic on the highly congested Long Island Expressway and offer potential significant private investment.

Governor Cuomo has directed that the state should continue to pursue a tunnel from Long Island to Westchester or Connecticut – a project which DOT has determined is feasible as a way of reducing traffic on the congested Long Island Expressway and offering potential significant private investment.

Part 5. Fueling Clean Energy Jobs

Under Governor Cuomo's leadership, New York State is developing a vibrant clean energy economy, and job growth in this emerging industry is booming across the state. Today more than 150,000 New Yorkers are now working in the clean energy industry. New, well-paying clean energy jobs are present in every county and region, from Long Island to Erie County and the Southern Tier to the North Country.

In 2014, Governor Cuomo launched Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) to establish a new framework for a clean, resilient and affordable energy system for all New Yorkers, and REV has received international acclaim for its comprehensive approach to building the energy system of the future. Building on the progress of the REV, in 2016 the Governor established the Clean Energy Standard, requiring 50 percent of New York's electric supply come from renewable energy sources by 2030.

The Governor also supported the creation of a 10-year, $5 billion Clean Energy Fund designed to leverage private sector investment, fuel clean energy markets, and deliver energy savings across the State. The Fund is expected to save New Yorkers $39 billion in energy costs over the next 10 years while dramatically reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The Clean Energy Fund supports New York State's $1 billion commitment to solar power through the NY-Sun program, which has led to an explosion of solar growth across the State. Since the Governor took office in 2011, growth in solar power has exceeded 800 percent, growing at more than twice the national average. Today, thousands of New Yorkers are employed in the solar industry, and solar energy provides enough power for more than 150,000 New York State households. The Clean Energy Fund also supports the NY Green Bank, which has driven total investments of up to $1.59 billion in New York State clean energy projects.

Governor Cuomo has also made the development of New York's robust offshore wind resource a central

priority. The Governor called for the most comprehensive offshore wind master plan ever conducted in 2016, and in 2017 set a 2.4 gigawatt goal for offshore wind deployment – the most ambitious in the nation and enough to power 1.2 million New York households. These steps will ensure that New York is home to the thousands of offshore wind careers created in the United States as this new industry matures.

Governor Cuomo's bold initiatives are helping drive clean energy job growth at nearly double the overall job growth average in New York, and the clean energy sector now employs more workers than the thriving biotech and agriculture industries combined. As New York advances toward its ambitious clean energy goals, the Governor will work to ensure growth continues to surge.

Proposal: Increase Transmission of Clean and Renewable Energy by Investing $200 Million to Meet Unprecedented Energy Storage Target of 1,500 Megawatts by 2025

Energy storage product development in the state is also showing strong signs of success. Just recently, for example, Governor Cuomo announced the launch of Imerium3 New York, Inc., a consortium of businesses spearheaded by three Southern Tier companies that will establish research, development and production operations at the Huron Campus in Endicott, Broome County and invest more than $130 million over the next five years.

Notwithstanding this progress, New York still faces a number of energy-related challenges, including upgrading its aging energy infrastructure, which carries with it an estimated $30 billion price tag over the next 10 years. Moreover, as renewable energy sources produce a larger share of New York's electricity, New York must also address the "intermittency" of clean resources like wind and solar that are not continuously available. Without methods to store the energy and dispatch it

when and where it is needed, New York will face challenges integrating and maximizing the benefits of these clean resources.

To tackle these energy challenges and further New York's climate and clean energy leadership, Governor Cuomo is launching an initiative to deploy 1,500 megawatts of energy storage by 2025 and employ 30,000 New Yorkers in good jobs in this industry. Achieving this ambitious goal will produce $2 billion in energy value to New Yorkers by reducing the reliance on costly, dirty and inefficient energy infrastructure, while also helping to scale up the clean energy industry. A 1,500 megawatt commitment by New York represents the largest such commitment per capita by any state. To achieve this goal and build on the recently signed Energy Storage Deployment legislation (A.6571), Governor Cuomo is directing state energy agencies and authorities to work together during 2018 to generate a pipeline of storage projects through utility procurements, to advance regulatory changes in utility rates and wholesale energy markets, to incorporate

storage into criteria for large scale renewable procurements, and, to reduce regulatory barriers.

The Governor is also announcing a commitment of at least $200 million from the NY Green Bank for storage-related investments to help drive down costs and to strategically deploy energy storage to where the grid needs it most. Finally, the Governor is directing NYSERDA to invest at least $60 million through storage pilots and activities to reduce barriers to deploying energy storage (e.g., permitting, customer acquisition, interconnection, financing costs). In addition to utility procurements and regulatory changes, these investments will be critical to jumpstart the market and support robust and cost-effective project development on the way to achieving the 1,500 megawatt goal.

Proposal: Transform the New York Power Authority into the Nation's First Full-Scale Digital Utility

The electric industry's fundamental operating model is undergoing a dramatic transformation into the digital age. Under Governor Cuomo's leadership, the New

York Power Authority (NYPA) is at the forefront of that transformation with new digital technologies, programs and processes to build a power system that meets the needs of the 21st century sustainable, energy-driven economy. NYPA has already started its journey into this transformation through activities like the Life Extension and Modernization programs as well as several innovative research and development projects for piloting new energy monitoring technologies. Given the success of these initial projects, a more comprehensive and coordinated approach is needed to fully harness the potential of digitizing the energy system.

To harness the full benefits of digital technologies and maximize efficiency, Governor Cuomo is directing NYPA to transform its operations and electric grid infrastructure to become the first all-digital utility. This wholescale redesign will deploy new technologies to perform online monitoring of plants, sub-stations and power lines to increase plant efficiency and productivity, which will reduce unplanned downtime, lower maintenance costs and minimize operational risks. In

addition, by leveraging new digital technologies to optimize its processes and activities across the enterprise and become more streamlined in its operations, NYPA's facilities will function with more resiliency and improved efficiency, which will control costs and benefit customers. With a digital power system that is cleaner, affordable and more resilient, NYPA will help meet the Governor's Clean Energy Standard and goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40 percent by 2030.

Proposal: Solicit Proposals for Offshore Wind Power

Governor Cuomo has launched the most ambitious clean energy agenda in New York State history with the comprehensive Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) strategy, which includes the nation-leading Clean Energy Standard mandate to generate 50 percent of the state's electricity needs from renewable energy sources by 2030. Recognizing the vital role that offshore wind can play both to reach these ambitious goals and to fuel economic growth and quality job creation in New York,

the Governor announced the beginning of an Offshore Wind Master Plan process in 2016. In 2017, the Governor made an unprecedented commitment to develop up to 2.4 gigawatts of offshore wind power by 2030, enough to power 1.2 million New York households.

To position New York as the leading offshore wind market in the United States and to drive competition, reduce costs and create high quality jobs in this emerging industry, Governor Cuomo is calling for New York State to procure at least 800 megawatts of offshore wind power between two solicitations to be issued in 2018 and 2019, resulting in enough clean, renewable energy to power 400,000 New York households. These solicitations will be the first in a set schedule to reach the 2.4 gigawatt by 2030 target, will create competition among developers to build some of the largest offshore wind projects in the United States, and will ensure that the resulting well-paying, quality jobs and economic development benefits accrue to New York State.

In addition, Governor Cuomo is directing the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to invest $15 million in clean energy workforce development and infrastructure advancement to train workers for high quality, well-paying jobs in this industry, including offshore wind construction, installation, operation, maintenance, design and associated infrastructure. To attract private investment in port infrastructure and supply chain activities, Governor Cuomo is also directing NYSERDA to work with Empire State Development and other State agencies to determine the most promising public and private offshore wind port infrastructure investments. These new actions will jumpstart project development, drive the growth of new, quality well-paying jobs and clean energy careers, and secure New York's status as the undisputed home for the emerging offshore wind industry in the U.S.

Proposal: Divest the New York Common Fund from Fossil Fuel Investments

New York State has taken major steps to reduce its carbon footprint and cut back on the use of fossil fuels as an energy source. Governor Cuomo's climate strategy is leading to a cleaner, more resilient and affordable energy system for all New Yorkers by stimulating investment in clean technologies like solar, wind, and energy storage and further requiring that 50 percent of the state's electricity needs come from renewable energy sources by 2030. Already, this strategy has driven nearly 800 percent growth in the statewide solar market, improved energy affordability for 1.65 million low-income customers, and created thousands of jobs in manufacturing, engineering, and other clean tech sectors.

In contrast with New York State's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the New York Common Fund—which manages approximately $200 billion in retirement assets for more than one million New Yorkers across the state—remains heavily invested

in fossil fuels. In 2017, the Common Fund listed holdings in more than 50 oil and gas companies that have been identified as among the 100 most carbon-intensive in the world, a figure that has increased since 2016. With billions of public employee dollars invested in the fossil fuel industry, and nearly $1 billion invested in ExxonMobil alone, the Common Fund holds increasingly risky financial investments for New Yorkers, particularly as both New York State and the world back away from the use of fossil fuel as a primary energy source. For example, the World Bank recently announced that it will end financial support for oil and gas exploration within the next two years, an announcement that itself comes on the heels of recent action by the Norwegian sovereign wealth fund, the largest fund in the world, to move away from fossil fuel investments.

It is time for the Common Fund to lead on these issues and adopt a serious and responsible plan for divesting from fossil fuels that still recognizes the complexity of the Fund and its need to provide retirement benefits. Accordingly, the Governor is calling

on the fund to divest from significant fossil fuel investments. The Governor is calling for the fund to cease all new investments in entities with significant fossil fuel-related activities. In addition, Governor Cuomo will work with the Office of the Comptroller to create an advisory committee of financial, economic, scientific, business and workforce representatives as a resource for the Common Retirement Fund to develop a de-carbonization roadmap to invest in opportunities to combat climate change and support the clean tech economy while assessing financial risks and protecting the Fund.

This proposed approach helps to address the complexity of the Common Fund's portfolio while providing a clear roadmap for de-carbonization. Adopting this approach will send a strong message to the financial markets that major investors, including New York State, are fully and aggressively committed to a carbon-free, clean energy future. Finally, the Governor calls on the Fund to dedicate a meaningful portion of the Fund's portfolio to investments that directly promote

clean energy—which makes economic and environmental sense.

The Common Fund must take decisive and meaningful action to further de-carbonize, and this plan puts in place a concrete roadmap that provides for de-carbonization of the portfolio while maintaining the fiscal stability of the Fund.

Proposal: Launch Charge NY 2.0

Governor Cuomo has made New York a leader in deploying electric vehicles through the Zero Emission Vehicle MOU, Charge NY, the Drive Clean rebate, and DEC's municipal ZEV rebate program. Since Charge NY launched in 2013, EV deployment in New York State has increased considerably, and New York is on pace to meet the Charge NY target of 30,000 to 40,000 EVs by the end of 2018. In addition, the number of public charging stations has more than doubled to 1,800.

Although ZEVs have many advantages in terms of costs savings, performance and convenience of charging at home, finding a location to charge an electric car away

from home can be challenging. Currently, New York has approximately 50 gas pumps for every public charging station, and few of those charging stations provide a high-speed charge that can compete with the speed of pumping gas. To make ZEVs more competitive with gas-powered automobiles, Governor Cuomo will launch Charge NY 2.0 in 2018, which will drive the buildout of EV charging infrastructure and promote ZEV-capable roadways and destinations across New York.

Under Charge NY 2.0, New York State will:

- **Increase charging stations across New York:** Work with the private sector to support the public availability of at least 10,000 charging stations across New York by 2021. Coupled with the convenience of charging at home and the increasing range and reduced cost of electric vehicles, this strategic effort will put New York on track to be the first state in the nation to make ownership of gasoline-powered vehicles obsolete.

- **Establish clean fuel corridors:** State-designated Clean Fuel Corridors will prioritize the installation of charging stations at strategic locations along the State's highways based on distance and accessibility. By 2020, a ZEV traveling anywhere on New York's interstate system will be able to recharge at a location convenient to the driver. In addition, the State will create an official designation for ZEV-ready businesses and communities.

Part 6. Growing Tourism Across New York

Governor Cuomo's investments in promoting tourism and leveraging our unparalleled assets are delivering historic results for our economy. Programs like the I Love NY campaign are highlighting all that this state has to offer, including the beauty and history of our state, and attracting more visitors and more jobs. Since 2011, our $200 million tourism investment has seen our annual tourism spending increase by $18 billion.

In fact, New York State's tourism industry set new records for total number of visitors, economic impact and direct spending in 2016. A record 239 million visitors traveled to New York State, generating an economic impact of $104.8 billion – exceeding $100 billion for the third straight year. In addition, visitors generated an all-time high $64.8 billion in direct spending. These figures each represent a nearly three percent increase over 2015, supported by the Governor's unprecedented investments in the state's booming tourism industry. This year, Governor Cuomo will continue the upward trajectory of this critical driver of economic growth.

Proposal: Complete the New Expo Center to Continue the Transformation of the New York State Fairgrounds

As part of the Central New York Rising comprehensive strategy to revitalize communities and grow the economy, Governor Cuomo has invested $120 million over the past two years to upgrade and transform

the historic New York State Fairgrounds into a world-class, multi-use entertainment facility. The multi-phased approach expanded the Fair by 60 acres, added a beautiful new Main Gate, an RV park that supports both the Fair and its year-round facilities rental business, and large, open spaces that allow for expanded Fair programming and larger events on the grounds year-round. The State is also investing to significantly improve parking and highway access.

As a result of these improvements, the State Fair had record-breaking attendance in each of the last two years, including an all-time annual attendance record of 1,161,912 people who came to the Fair over its 13-day run in 2017. This year's Fair attendees also gave the highest levels of satisfaction ratings ever recorded. As crowds increase during the fair, more activities are also being booked off-season.

This year, the State will complete a new 136,000-square-foot Expo Center announced in 2017 by Governor Cuomo. The new building will provide year-round economic growth to the region and be the largest

exhibition facility north of New York City between Boston and Cleveland. The Expo Center, with 110,000 square-feet of flexible event space and 4,000 retractable seats, will attract major agricultural shows and special events, including car shows, consumer and trade shows, and equestrian events that could not have come to the region previously because of a lack of suitable space. It will join the Fairgrounds' existing portfolio of event space, such as the Toyota Coliseum and the Center of Progress Building, increasing the amount of available indoor space on the grounds to more than 450,000 square-feet.

Proposal: Complete the Hudson River SkyWalk

Under Governor Cuomo's leadership, New York is making a historic commitment to improving and expanding access to outdoor recreation. These investments have driven a significant increase in visits. New York state parks, historic sites and campgrounds hosted 69.3 million estimated visitors in 2016, a 6

percent increase over 2015 and a 21 percent increase since the Governor took office in 2011.

As part of these efforts, the Governor has been a strong supporter of the Hudson River SkyWalk project, a 1.8-mile scenic pedestrian trail that crosses the Hudson River linking the Olana State Historic Site in the Town of Greenport to the Thomas Cole National Historic Site in the Village of Catskill. In 2017, the state supported phase 2 of this project, replacing the sidewalk and railing and adding 3 scenic viewpoints on the Rip Van Winkle bridge, as well as providing funding for a sidewalk connecting the SkyWalk to the Thomas Cole National Historic Site in Greene County. This project is to be completed in 2018.

As part of the third phase of the Hudson River SkyWalk project, the State will reconstruct the current intersection of Route 23 and Route 9G in Columbia County into a pedestrian and bicycle friendly roundabout with a direct connection to Olana State Historic Site. Further, the state's Empire State Trail, which is currently under construction, will provide pedestrian

and bicycle friendly travel north from Olana and the Rip Van Winkle Bridge directly into the City of Hudson.

Proposal: Increase Year-Round Tourism for Upstate New York through World Class Attractions at Our Mountains and Olympic Facilities

New York's ski resorts are critical drivers of tourism and economic activity and remain a significant source of economic potential. Under Governor Cuomo's leadership the State has made significant investments to modernize facilities and ensure they can compete with other world class ski destinations. Last year, Governor Cuomo committed $28 million for Whiteface and Gore lodge renovations and expansion and a new Gondola for Belleayre Ski Resort—a first for the Catskills. Investments like these have made New York more competitive for winter recreation and travel, attracting large sporting events, and ultimately driving year-round business and economic sustainability for the area.

Notwithstanding these improvements, the Olympic Regional Development Authority, which

operates the three state-owned ski resorts and Olympic venues in Lake Placid, still faces the challenge of aging infrastructure, outdated technology, and out-of-state competition that is investing heavily to attract future generations. New York must continue updating its venues with a long-range strategic plan.

To continue the momentum and drive economic growth, Governor Cuomo proposes to invest in critical infrastructure improvements and additional year-round attractions at Whiteface Mountain, Gore Mountain, Belleayre Mountain, and the Olympic Facilities. In addition, the state will issue a request for expressions of interest to engage firms with ski industry and winter sports expertise, ensuring that these resources are invested in a manner that maximizes benefits to both ORDA and the regional economy. Investment in these cherished state assets will ensure success for generations to come and bring significant economic and tourism activity to our state.

Proposal: Bridge the Gap in the North Country's Tourism Lodging Needs

Thanks to Governor Cuomo's historic investments in the tourism, New York State has experienced unprecedented growth in visitation and tourism economic impact all across the state. The economic impact of tourism for the state is nearly $105 billion—an increase of $18 billion since 2011, the highest amount in history and the third straight year that number has eclipsed $100 billion.

For this growth to continue and for New York State to remain competitive with other world-class destinations, tourism stakeholders have identified the need to address the lack of full-service lodging in the state's North Country because of the region's dependence on seasonal accommodations and the lack of enough places for visitors to stay that appeal to their varying needs.

To help address this problem and encourage further development, the State will provide the North Country region with tools and resources to catalyze

private investment in lodging. Empire State Development will commission a study to identify lodging development opportunities in the Adirondacks and Thousand Island regions and provide $13 million in capital funding through the REDCs and Upstate Revitalization Initiative to spur development activity.

Proposal: Bring the World University Games back to Lake Placid in 2023

New York State is proud of its support for Lake Placid as a global destination since the historic 1980 Olympic Games, and Governor Cuomo is committed to maintaining and expanding that legacy. The city plays an essential role in the Governor's strategic approach to driving tourism to the North Country, which has seen a 15 percent increase in visitors since Governor Cuomo took office. Today, Lake Placid is recognized worldwide as a "model city" for its successes as a former Olympic site, and this year it will hold five U.S. Olympic Team trials.

Lake Placid is also in a unique position to secure the International University Sports Federation World University Winter Games to be held in 2023. The Winter Universiade, an eleven-day sports and cultural event held every two years in different locations around the world, is the largest university winter multi-sport competition in the world, drawing several thousand students. In 2017, the Almaty Winter Universiade had a record 57 countries compete in Kazakhstan, with over 360 million viewers worldwide.[63]

The event has only been held in the U.S. twice before, both times in New York: Lake placid hosted the winter games in 1972, and Buffalo hosted the summer games in 1993. This year, Governor Cuomo will support Lake Placid's bid to once again host the Winter Universiade in 2023. In conjunction with his ongoing commitment to modernizing winter sports infrastructure across New York, Governor Cuomo will work together with local government and the private sector to help Lake Placid put forth the best possible bid. Bringing the games back to Lake Placid will further

strengthen the city's legacy as a global center for winter sports, attract new tourists to Lake Placid and neighboring communities, and fuel a critical engine of the North Country's economy.

4. A Cleaner, Greener and Healthier New York: The Wellness Agenda

Part 1. Protecting the Health of Our Communities

In New York, we believe health care is a right, not a luxury. Governor Cuomo is committed to expanding access to quality and affordable health care for all New Yorkers. He has also taken an innovative, holistic approach to health care in New York State, promoting healthy lifestyles and ensuring a clean environment. From redesigning Medicaid to reduce costs and improve care, to embracing the Affordable Care Act and enrolling nearly one in five New Yorkers through the state's marketplace, Governor Cuomo has transformed health care in New York State. This year New York will continue to expand access to affordable and quality health care across the State while tackling the major health challenges facing our communities.

Proposal: Reverse the Opioid Epidemic

Under Governor Cuomo's direction, New York has taken bold steps in confronting the local effects of a nationwide crisis of deadly addiction to opioids, with significant increases in treatment capacity, strong support services, the removal of barriers to accessing high quality treatment, and public awareness and education activities. In 2016, Governor Cuomo signed into law a comprehensive plan following the recommendations of the Heroin and Opioid Task Force to increase access to treatment, expand community prevention strategies, and limit the over-prescription of opioids in New York. The following year, Governor Cuomo's budget dedicated more than $200 million to support education, prevention, and treatment and recovery programs targeted toward combating opioid addiction.

Despite our progress, far too many New Yorkers continue to suffer the consequences of addiction. In fact, the latest data indicates that more than twice as many people in New York died from opioid-related causes than

in motor vehicle accidents deaths.[64] To address this public health emergency, Governor Cuomo is proposing a comprehensive five-point plan to build on New York's role as the national leader in combating addiction.

First, to hold pharmaceutical companies accountable for their role in perpetuating the opioid epidemic, the Governor with the New York Attorney General will take enforcement actions against pharmaceutical opioid distributors for breaching their legal duties to monitor, detect and report suspicious orders of prescription opioids. The three largest wholesale distributors in the U.S.—with combined annual revenues of $400 billion—control 85 percent of the market for prescription opioids and have violated their duty by selling large amounts of painkillers that were then diverted for illicit uses, helping to contribute to the opioid epidemic. [65] Any funds received from such enforcement activity would be used to support the state's efforts to combat opioid addiction.

Second, the Governor will strengthen protections against addiction stemming from prescription opioids.

Governor Cuomo has championed legislation limiting opioid prescriptions to seven days and requiring providers to consult the prescription drug monitoring database when prescribing opioids, which have become national models for reform. To further protect New Yorkers from addiction, the Governor will advance legislation to restrict subsequent fills to no more than one additional seven-day prescription of opioids for acute pain without having an in-person visit with the prescriber to evaluate alternative pain management therapies. The Governor will also advance legislation that authorizes the Department of Health (DOH) to apply the same limitations to patients with a diagnosis of chronic pain who have not previously used opioids and to require Emergency Department prescribers to also consult the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program before prescribing opioids. DOH and the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) will create a Statewide Pain Management Steering Committee bringing together clinical experts to make recommendations on pain management issues, taking

into account the latest Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines.[66]

Third, the Governor will take steps to eliminate insurance barriers to addiction treatment and recovery services by limiting requirements for prior authorization and co-payments for outpatient addiction treatment. The Governor will also direct the new Statewide Pain Management Committee to make recommendations related to coverage of alternative pain management treatments.

Fourth, in conjunction with eliminating insurance barriers to treatment, Governor Cuomo will also direct several State agencies to implement regulatory and policy reforms that increase access to substance use disorder services. These reforms may include consideration of new regulations to include subacute pain as a qualifying condition for medical marijuana. The Governor proposes the creation of 250 Certified Peer Recovery Advocates to assist our efforts to engage New Yorkers in seeking treatment and sustaining their recovery after treatment. Recovery Peer Advocates are

people who have been impacted by addiction who use their unique life experience to help others. Relevant agencies will also coordinate and expand their efforts to harness data and share information to mobilize more rapid and comprehensive responses to drug overdoses.

Fifth, recognizing the increasing role of fentanyl analogs in drug overdose deaths, the Governor will advance legislation to add 11 fentanyl analogs to Schedule I of the controlled substance schedules of New York State Public Health Law. To combat the rising threats and health risks of other synthetic drugs like K2 and Spice, the Governor is also advancing legislation to add 35 different synthetic cannabinoids to New York's schedule of controlled substances and give the New York State Health Commissioner the authority to add to the state controlled substances schedule any new drugs that have been added to the federal schedule. In so doing, Governor Cuomo will be empowering state and local law enforcement to use their investigative and prosecutorial tools to crack down on dealers and aid in efforts to prevent the spread of deadly new drugs as they emerge.

Together, the Governor's reforms will dramatically increase the effectiveness and efficiency of our addiction services and continue to build on New York's role as the national leader in combatting addiction.

Proposal: Enforce Lead Testing

Governor Cuomo has taken unprecedented action to safeguard the health and safety of children across New York State by limiting lead exposure. Still, we know that we must do more to continue to reduce lead exposure. The New York City Housing Authority recently revealed its failure to abate lead paint and notify tenants of the danger. We know that lead paint can do permanent damage and is a toxic hazard that we believed had been eliminated 30 years ago.[67]

To continue to lead the way in reducing lead exposure for children and families, this year Governor Cuomo will order the Department of Health, New York State Homes and Community Renewal, and other state partners to develop a system to ensure all housing

authorities and all private landlords statewide make sure our children are safe from this hazard.

Proposal: Protect New Yorkers from Toxic Chemicals in Personal Care Products

Under Governor Cuomo's leadership, New York has made unprecedented commitments to protecting the public and the environment from exposure to potentially harmful chemicals found in everyday consumer products. Earlier this year, Governor Cuomo spearheaded a new initiative that will make New York the first state in the nation to require all manufacturers of household cleaning products sold in New York to disclose chemical ingredients on their websites.

The urgency for state protection is all the greater now that the federal approach to regulating toxic chemicals is heading in the opposite direction. New Yorkers use a wide variety of personal care products every day and are likely unaware that some of these products contain potentially harmful chemicals, such as formaldehyde and toluene in nail polish, coal tar in

dandruff shampoo and parabens in moisturizers and facial cleansers.

Governor Cuomo will propose legislation to require the manufacturers of personal care products sold in the State to make product ingredient information publicly available in a clear and easy to use web format. In addition, manufacturers will be required to list those chemical ingredients which have been identified by other state, federal or international jurisdictions as posing a hazard to human health. A centralized database of manufacturer disclosure websites will be maintained by New York in partnership with the Interstate Chemicals Clearinghouse. These initiatives will empower consumers by providing them with the information they need to make well-informed decisions regarding the chemicals their families are exposed to daily. By requiring industry to be more transparent and better educating consumers, this action will encourage manufacturers to find innovative ways to either replace or remove potentially harmful chemicals from their products.

Proposal: Empower Health Care Consumers

Governor Cuomo has taken historic steps to increase access to health care for millions of men, women and children, and today, more New Yorkers have access to health insurance than ever before, and all New Yorkers have new rights to more comprehensive coverage. Across the state, payers, providers, and consumers are working hand-in-hand to make landmark advances to improve quality of care while slowing the growth of costs. Despite these achievements, health care coverage is still out of reach for many, those with insurance often struggle to pay for their care and everyone must navigate a health care system that can be complex and confusing.

At Governor Cuomo's direction, New York State will undertake a comprehensive set of initiatives to safeguard the rights of patients and their families and strengthen their ability to have more control over their healthcare. These initiatives include:

- **Promote price transparency:** Because of co-pays and high deductibles, New Yorkers are

increasingly making significant out-of-pocket payments and so become healthcare "consumers." In order to help New Yorkers decide where to obtain healthcare services, the Department of Financial Services will require health plans to provide members with information, such as cost-estimator tools and quality ratings about healthcare providers in their network, so they can make more intelligent decisions regarding their choice of provider.

- **Increase awareness of financial assistance policies:** New York State requires hospitals to provide financial assistance for patients with incomes of 300 percent of the federal poverty level or less, but patients may be unaware of these policies. In order to promote awareness, the State will provide clear guidance on uniform standards for financial assistance applications, e-provide a central, on-line location with links to every hospital's financial assistance policy, and will require hospitals to include a link to their

financial assistance policies with bills sent to patients.

- **Prevent abusive medical debt collection practices:** To protect patients and their families from abusive debt collection practices, Governor Cuomo will expand existing legal protections for families across the state to ensure that patients receive sufficient notice before providers can send their bills to collection and prohibit entities from filing a lien against homes in the collection of medical debt if the patient was eligible for financial assistance from the provider and did not receive it.
- **Simplify medical billing:** Patients today are expected to integrate, verify and prioritize cost and billing information flowing to them for multiple sources. This complexity makes it quite difficult for families to understand and manage their healthcare expenses. To address this issue, the Governor will direct the Department of Financial Services and the Department of Health

to provide specific recommendations to simplify medical bills so that consumers can more readily understand them. The agencies will work with healthcare providers and payers to rethink the processes behind such bills and reconfigure the workflow needed to help those entities support a patient-facing product.

- **Create a searchable, digital external appeal database:** Far too many New Yorkers are wrongfully denied coverage of health care services. Under the Governor's leadership, New York's landmark external appeal program provides New Yorkers the right to obtain an independent medical review when their health plan denies health care services. The program also significantly expanded the grounds for an external appeal. Despite these achievements, there is currently no easy way for consumers to search prior external appeal decisions, and as a result, consumers are often not able to assess whether pursuing an appeal is

worthwhile. Governor Cuomo will direct the Department of Financial Services to create a searchable database of prior external appeals that consumers can easily access to review past decisions. This database, which will be redacted to remove personal health information, will assist consumers with deciding whether or not to file an external appeal, improve efficiency and transparency of the process, hold insurers publicly accountable and promote uniformity of decisions.

Collectively, these actions will empower New Yorkers with the tools they need to make decisions that work best for themselves and their families – putting patients first and leading the way for a healthier New York.

Proposal: Expand Access to Health Care in Rural New York by Expanding Telehealth Services

Under Governor Cuomo's leadership, New York has made historic gains in ensuring access to health care

across the state, including in rural areas. Since 2011, the uninsured rate for rural New Yorkers has declined by almost half—many gaining health insurance for the first time.

Many rural New Yorkers still face the challenges of long travel distances and provider shortages, which can present substantial costs and barriers to care. Telehealth can be an important and effective tool in bridging the access gap,[68] yet health care providers in rural areas face resource constraints across programs, impeding their ability to make the investments necessary to support innovative programs like telehealth and expand access to care within their communities.

To continue to build on the State's historic progress in increasing access to health care, New York State will take a series of steps to modernize the delivery of telehealth services and ensure that rural New Yorkers have access to the care they need, when and where they need it.

First, New York State will propose legislation to ensure that New Yorkers covered under the Medicaid

program can receive telehealth services in a wider range of settings—including from their own homes. Under current state law, outdated statutory barriers restrict the settings in which patients can access telehealth services—meaning patients looking to receive care may still need to travel long distances in order to be eligible for these services and may not be able to receive telehealth services where and when they need them most. Under new legislation, a patient may receive telehealth services wherever they are located.

The State will also launch a new pilot program to address the resource constraints that many rural health care providers face. The pilot will support rural providers across the State of New York—enabling them to make the necessary investments in telemedicine equipment and IT support to bring health care to rural New York.

Proposal: Strengthen the Rural Emergency Medical Services System

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) are essential for disaster preparedness and public safety, and under Governor Cuomo's leadership, New York State has strengthened EMS through locally directed efforts tailored to the diverse communities throughout the state. Over 59,000 certified EMS providers serve as critical first-responders throughout New York's urban, suburban, and rural communities. In the last year alone these providers responded to over three million calls from New Yorkers. For rural EMS, ensuring ambulances are appropriately staffed and able to respond in a timely fashion has become increasingly challenging. The increased demand for EMS response, the increasing cost of providing the service, and the shortage of EMS professionals are leading to a gap between the capacities of the current system and the standard of care New Yorkers deserve. This situation is compounded in rural communities, where low-call volumes generate insufficient revenue to support a paid agency.

To address the underlying issues facing rural EMS agencies, Governor Cuomo proposes a three-pronged Strengthening of the Rural Emergency Medical Services (EMS) System plan to recruit, retain and strengthen the EMS system across rural regions of New York State. To ensure that New Yorkers, especially young New Yorkers, are aware of the career possibilities in EMS and the contribution that working in the EMS field makes to their communities, the Department of Health will launch a coordinated digital media and educational campaign to heighten awareness of EMS employment opportunities through partnerships with regional and local health care organizations, area health educational centers (AHECs), and EMS training systems. In addition, to enhance career opportunities for EMS professionals and to improve quality of care and lower costs to the health care system, DOH will propose legislation to authorize Community Paramedicine collaboratives and programs, which will expand the scope of services carried out by emergency medical technicians (EMTs) to include community

settings beyond initial emergency care and transportation.

Secondly, in an effort to increase the availability of EMS training programs, DOH will work closely with the boards of cooperative educational services (BOCES) and community colleges throughout New York to provide educational opportunities in diverse settings outside of the traditional paradigm.

The third component of the plan will add sophisticated, in-depth management educational material to enhance existing supervisory training for EMS professionals who want to advance their expertise and take on leadership roles, and to expand interactive web-based offerings and regional seminars in order to reach a broader audience. The Strengthening of the Rural EMS System plan will ensure a trained, effective EMS workforce, and improve the timeliness, quality, and delivery of EMS throughout rural areas of New York State.

Proposal: Leverage Hospital Community Benefit Investments to Support Prevention Initiatives

Governor Cuomo has made historic commitments to improve the overall health of New Yorkers by addressing direct medical care as well as prevention and social determinants of health. The New York State Prevention Agenda and the Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) program aim to shift the paradigm about the role hospitals play in community health from an emphasis on only providing health care to those in need of direct medical care toward addressing the social and environmental determinants of population health. In return for tax-exempt status, nonprofit hospitals must demonstrate spending in activities recognized by the IRS as benefitting their communities, also known as hospital community benefit, which can include investments in community health, research, and charity care. The Affordable Care Act included new requirements meant to improve community benefit investments made by hospitals. However, the federal requirements do not do enough to help guide these vital

investments toward community health improvement, and as a result, hospital investment varies widely, with recent reports indicating that New York hospitals allocate only about 4 percent of community benefit spending to investments in community health improvement.[69]

In order to achieve greater alignment between hospital community benefit investments and proven models of preventative care, Governor Cuomo will require that all voluntary non-profit hospitals in New York State include budgets in their community service plans, detailing investments in community health improvement interventions, including those associated with the Prevention Agenda. This new requirement will increase transparency into how hospitals are contributing to community health and will serve as a guide to future decisions about spending requirements needed to achieve public health goals, reduce health care costs and build healthier communities.

Proposal: Support the Needs of the Modern Aging Population

Governor Cuomo is committed to making New York the Healthiest State for People of All Ages. Last year, Governor Cuomo launched the Social Isolation Hotline, the nation's first statewide mobile app to connect nearly 4 million older adults with easily accessible material regarding health and wellness, housing, and transportation options. In August of 2017, the Governor's efforts to support the aging earned New York the designation as the First Age-Friendly State in the Nation, certified by AARP and the World Health Organization (WHO), thereby meeting the first goal of the Governor's Health Across all Policies initiative launched in the 2017 State of the State.

Despite the recent successes in promoting high quality care for older New Yorkers, the need for earlier interventions, modernized care and additional assistance to support aging is growing as New York's population continues to age. New York has the fourth largest population of older adults in the nation.[70] 3.7

million New Yorkers are currently 60 years of age or older, and 4.2 million are between the ages of 45 and 59.[71] Within the next decade, 51 counties in New York will have a population that is made up of at least 25 percent older adults.[72]

Building off the successes of the past year, Governor Cuomo will advance a series of policies to prepare for the emerging needs of a growing aging population, including:

- **Launch a Long Term Care Planning Council**: To understand the projected and desired needs of older adults in New York, Governor Cuomo will launch a Long Term Care Planning Council that will be charged with examining New York's long-term care system. The Council will analyze, evaluate, and identify the existing service gaps in New York's long-term care system, determine the most cost-effective evidence based interventions, and prepare a strategic plan to meet the emerging needs of New York's aging population over the next decade. The Council will be jointly-led by the

Commissioner of Health and the Director of the Office for the Aging, with participation from external stakeholders.

- **Issue an Age Friendly Executive Order**: As a continued commitment to creating age-friendly communities, the Governor will issue an executive order that directs agencies to consider the impact of their policies and procurements on health and healthy aging, aligned with the eight domains of an Age-Friendly Community. To support the State's commitment in creating age-friendly communities, the State will set a goal of making fifty-percent of all health systems age-friendly within the next five years, which will include the establishment of age-friendly Emergency Rooms that will be better equipped to provide care to aging New Yorkers with cognitive and other physical disabilities.
- **Expand Advanced Care Planning**: Advanced Care Planning (ACP) not only empowers older adults to participate in the decision-making

process of their treatment, but also details their wishes for care if they were unable to speak for themselves. Governor Cuomo will initiate a statewide ACP campaign, to include, public outreach and education, engagement and encouragement of New Yorkers of all ages to complete ACP documents and a re-design of the Department of Health's ACP website to include additional functionality and resources. The State will also fully participate in National Health Care Decision Day.

Proposal: Become the National Leader in AgTech and Food Research

Governor Cuomo is committed to growing the state's agriculture industry as a pillar of our economy while ensuring New Yorkers consume safe, high-quality foods. In 2016, the Governor created the New York State Grown and Certified program, the first of its kind in the nation, to promote New York producers that meet high standards for food quality and consumer safety.

Food imports are among the highest-risk categories of food due to lax regulatory oversight in other countries. In the absence of strong federal action to protect our citizens from unsafe foods, New York must step up.

To make New York a national leader in agriculture technology and protect New Yorkers' food supply, the State will set standards for actionable limits of contaminants in imported spices, build a research and development facility that recycles forestry and logging by-products, invest in a state-of-the-art food inspection system, and re-establish a plant certification program to ensure that the growing hard cider industry has virus-free trees and vines. These actions include:

- Create a Center of Excellence on Food Research to determine actionable limits of contaminants commonly found in imported foods, particularly heavy metals and suspected carcinogens. DAM will partner with DOH to develop standards to be shared with the FDA to enable stricter enforcement on contaminated imports.

- Support the growing hard cider industry by re-establishing a plant certification program to provide New York fruit nurseries with clean stock. Focus will be on apple trees to help ensure the growing hard cider industry has virus-free trees and vines to growers, which yield higher quality and quantity fruit.
- Invest up to $6.6 million to build a new Biorefinery Development and Commercialization Center at SUNY Alfred to develop scalable processing of recycled forestry and logging by-products into bio-products, including commercial fiber packaging, green compostable /biodegradable plastic, food additives, and biofuels. This will serve as a teaching facility and support research and development of this exciting new technology.
- Partner with ITS to provide a state-of-the-art food inspection system that brings food safety to the 21st century. Using technology will improve the state's capacity to conduct inspections and to

educate the industry to increase access to safer foods and ensure maximum compliance.

By conducting nation-leading agricultural research and development, the State will create new opportunities for commercialization in New York while also supporting efforts to ensure New Yorkers consume safe and high-quality foods.

Proposal: Implement a Lyme and Tick-Borne Disease Control Plan

In August 2017, the New York State Department of Health launched a multi-faceted initiative to safeguard New Yorkers from tick-borne diseases with expanded tick surveillance and an aggressive awareness and outreach campaign in collaboration with the Department of Environmental Conservation.

However, in some part of New York State, tick-borne diseases are on the rise, posing a threat to both individual New Yorkers and our regional economies that rely on outdoor recreation. Each year, there are approximately 8,000 cases of Lyme disease, 700 cases of

anaplasmosis, 400 cases of babesiosis, 100 cases of ehrlichiosis, and 30 cases of other tick-borne illnesses reported to the Department of Health—with many other cases going unreported. And 2017 also brought deadly cases of the rare tick-borne disease Powassan.

In 2018, Governor Cuomo will launch an aggressive initiative to reduce the incidence of Lyme Disease and other tick-borne illnesses in New York State, but controlling tick populations on public lands, advancing research on diagnostics and treatment, and further increasing public awareness. First, the Governor will direct the Departments of Health and Environmental Conservation, and the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to launch a tick reduction strategy targeting priority counties and public lands with the highest risk of tick exposure and Lyme disease. Tick control methods will include strategic application of eco-friendly tick control treatments to high traffic trails and facilities, as well the expanded use of 4-poster tickicide stations to treat deer and traps to treat rodents. Second, the Governor will direct the Commissioner of Health to

establish a new working group on Lyme and other tick-borne diseases to review current strategies and improve the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of tick-borne diseases in New York State.

The DOH Wadsorth Center will work with private partners to explore ways to improve diagnostic testing and treatment for Lyme and other tick-borne diseases, as better solutions are needed to protect New Yorkers. Third, the Department of Health will continue its robust public outreach campaigns and also convene a tick-borne disease summit this spring, bringing together national experts, members of the new working group and local health departments to review New York's existing initiatives, and to make recommendations for future policy actions.

Part 2. Expanding Access to Open Space

From the Adirondacks to the Catskills to Long Island, Governor Cuomo has time and time again demonstrated his commitment to protecting and improving access to New York's open spaces. Under

Governor Cuomo's leadership, New York has invested nearly $125 million to conserve over 140,000 acres of land across the State, including 69,000 acres of land previously owned by the former Finch, Pruyn & Company paper company in the Adirondack Park, the largest Adirondack land acquisition in over 100 years.

The Governor's landmark NY Parks 2020 initiative is a multi-year commitment to leverage private and public funding to invest $900 million in State Parks to fix and restore aging infrastructure and modernize facilities for the 21st century visitor. The Governor has championed major improvements to park facilities across the state, such as the reopening the historic West Bathhouse at Jones Beach and renewal of Terrapin Point and the launch of the new Cave of the Winds interactive experience at Niagara Falls.

To build on the success of Parks 2020, the Governor launched Adventure NY in 2017, investing $50 million to connect more New York families and visitors to the great outdoors by improving access to State lands, rehabilitating campgrounds, and upgrading recreational

facilities such as duck blinds, boat launches and wildlife viewing platforms. In 2017, the Governor also championed the creation of the Empire State Trail by investing $200 million to complete and connect the Hudson River Valley Greenway and the Erie Canalway trails by 2020.

Moreover, the Governor remains committed to ensuring that underserved communities have substantial recreational opportunities. Through the Environmental Protection Fund, the Governor boosted municipal park grants for inner-city and underserved communities to a record $10 million in 2016 and 2017. In addition, the Governor launched the Connect Kids to Parks initiative offering free park entry to fourth-graders and free class field trips to New York students K-12.

Proposal: Create a New 407-acre State Park in Central Brooklyn

Last year, Governor Cuomo announced the Vital Brooklyn Initiative, a landmark approach aimed at addressing chronic social, economic and health

disparities in Central Brooklyn by targeting and investing in eight integrated areas, with a key focus on improving access to open space and recreation opportunities.

Central Brooklyn residents have some of the fewest opportunities for physical fitness in the entire state, with a number of neighborhoods that are "park deserts" with little or no access to open space and recreation. In fact, 84 percent of Central Brooklynites have gone without adequate physical activity in the last month alone, which is more than 30 percent higher than the rest of the State.[73] Vital Brooklyn is addressing this disparity with an integrated model, creating new pocket parks and playgrounds within a ten minute walk of each neighborhood, alongside investments in: affordable housing; access to healthy food; education and youth development; violence prevention; improved health care delivery; economic development; and resiliency.

In 2018, the Governor will advance the signature open space project of the Vital Brooklyn Initiative—creating the largest State Park in all of New York City. In

partnership with the National Park Service and the City of New York, the State will transform the former Pennsylvania and Fountain Avenue landfills into a new 407-acre State Park on the shores of Jamaica Bay. This stunning new waterfront Park will provide unparalleled recreational opportunities for neighboring Central Brooklyn communities that have tirelessly advocated for new open space.

The City has already remediated, capped and restored the landfills to a vibrant ecosystem of native plant species. In addition, the State has completed design work for the new Park and executed cooperative agreements with NPS and the City to establish the long sought-after facility. And now, the State will invest $15 million to open the property to the public, creating 3.5 miles of waterfront, paths and trails, and access to a unique coastal highland with unmatched views of Jamaica Bay. Activities will include biking, hiking, fishing, kayaking, and environmental education, and amenities will include comfort stations, shade structures and concessions. Additional future investments may include

the construction of a connecting bridge between the two sites and an amphitheater, as envisioned by the community.

Proposal: Build on the Success of the NY Parks 2020 State Parks Transformation

In 2017, New York state parks, historic sites and campgrounds hosted more than 69 million estimated visitors, a 21 percent increase since the Governor took office in 2011, reflecting Governor Cuomo's commitment to improving State Parks, expanding access to outdoor recreation, and promoting the state's vast tourism and recreational attractions.

Building off the success of Parks 2020, New York will continue to make significant investments to transform and protect the state's outdoor treasures and improve the visitor experience. These include:

- Restoring the Boardwalk Café at Jones Beach State Park to bring back a popular dining option and restore the symmetry of the Central Mall, at the heart of Jones Beach.

- Constructing the new and first vacation cabins and cottages on Long Island at Heckscher and Wildwood State parks.
- Completing the $70 million revitalization of Niagara Falls State Park, a multi-year commitment to transform the nation's oldest state park and better reflect noted park designer Frederick Law Olmsted's vision for the landscape.
- Constructing a Green Lakes State Park Environmental Education Center as part of the $16.9 million transformation of Central New York's most-visited State Park.
- Building a Minnewaska State Park Visitor Center
- Opening the Major League Baseball Youth Academy on the new and refurbished baseball fields and completion of the new resilient esplanade at Roberto Clemente State Park in New York City.
- Finishing the gateway transformation at the entrance to the flagship Watkins Glen State Park.

- Opening the completely overhauled Peerless Pool Complex at Saratoga Spa State Park.
- Debuting the entrance transformation at Sunken Meadow State Park which includes automation for easier and faster access.

Proposal: Complete the Hudson River Park

The Hudson River Park, encompassing over 500 acres and stretching 4.5 miles along Manhattan's storied West Side is the borough's second largest after Central Park. Arising from the ashes of the ill-fated 'West Way' plan that would have filled in hundreds of acres of the river to make way for a buried highway and new development, then-Governor Mario Cuomo and New York City Mayor David Dinkins had the bold vision in 1992 to create a joint city-state park from an assortment of derelict piers and abandoned waterfront. The Hudson River Park is an open-space phoenix that has catalyzed the transformation of adjoining neighborhoods and has served as a blueprint from Brooklyn to Buffalo for how investing in our waterfronts reaps multiple returns.

Under Governor Cuomo, the State's investment in the Hudson River Park has remained strong, facilitating the redevelopment of Pier 26, Pier 57 and key infrastructure repairs after the damage inflicted by Superstorm Sandy, among other important projects. However, despite these commitments the park is still only 77 percent complete and the original 2005 deadline envisioned for completing the park is long past due.

This year, Governor Cuomo is committing to fulfill his father's nation-leading vision. The Governor will work with the city to make the phased and matched investments necessary to get the job done. In addition, the State will continue to facilitate public-private partnerships, while ensuring the Estuary Management Plan is complete and the marine sanctuary is protected.

Proposal: Stop Railcar Storage to Protect the Natural Beauty of the Adirondacks

The Adirondack Park is the largest parkland in the continental United States, larger than Yellowstone, Yosemite, Glacier, Grand Canyon and Great Smoky

Mountains National Parks combined. Governor Cuomo has made unprecedented investments to protect the unparalleled natural wonder of the Adirondacks and support the inherently connected tourism industry. In 2016, nearly 12 million people visited the Adirondack region – 250,000 visitors more than the previous year – generating nearly $1.35 billion in direct visitor spending and supporting more than 21,000 jobs. All state-owned land within the Adirondack Park is Forest Preserve land and is kept protected in accordance with the will of the New York's voters since 1894 pursuant to the state's constitution. It is to be kept "forever wild," in recognition of the importance of preserving and protecting its irreplaceable aesthetic beauty and natural resources.

In the fall of 2017, Iowa Pacific Co. announced that it plans to store up to 2,000 railcars owned by third parties on the 30-mile long Tahawus Spur in the Adirondack Park for 10 years to generate needed revenues for track maintenance and rail operation costs. Both of the affected counties, Warren and Essex, have passed resolutions objecting to this proposed storage. In

spite of mounting opposition, railcars began to be delivered for storage in October of this year, with at least 75 cars currently stored on the Tahawus Spur. DEC's initial support for a freight line on the Tahawus Branch through the Forest Preserve was intended to provide an environmentally sound alternative to truck traffic, foster economic development, as well as recreational opportunities for snowmobile use. DEC never intended, nor agreed, that Iowa Pacific should turn this corridor in the pristine, forever wild wilderness of the Adirondack Park into a commercial disposal site.

In December 2017, in order to derail Iowa Pacific Co.'s plan and to protect the irreplaceable natural beauty of the Adirondack Park, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation filed a petition for waivers and exemptions with the Surface Transportation Board to support the State's filing of an application for adverse abandonment. In addition, the State called on Berkshire Hathaway, owners of the Union Tank Car Company, which owns the cars being stored, to stop this plan and protect one of the nation's greatest natural

treasures. In response, the Union Car Tank Company announced that it would heed the State's call and remove all of its tank car units from the Adirondack Park as soon as possible and ensure that its cars are not stored in the Park in the future.

In the wake of this important victory for New Yorkers, it remains imperative that Iowa Pacific Co. halt their plan to store thousands of rail cars on these tracks once and for all, and the State continues to stand ready to exhaust all legal options to end this unacceptable practice. In the letter to Iowa Pacific Co., DEC demanded that Saratoga & North Creek Railway immediately cease and desist receiving and storing any future railcars on the Tahawus Branch, and remove existing stored railcars, until a decision regarding this application is rendered by the federal Surface Transportation Board. These measures are the first step in a series of aggressive actions New York State is taking to stop Iowa Pacific Co.'s outrageous plan in its tracks and preserve

Part 3. Protecting Our Clean Water

Governor Cuomo has taken aggressive action to ensure that current and future generations of New Yorkers have access to clean water. In February 2016, Governor Cuomo launched the Water Quality Rapid Response Team to swiftly identify and address drinking water quality issues across the state. In 2017, Governor Cuomo signed the Clean Water Infrastructure Act – a $2.5 billion investment in drinking water infrastructure, clean water infrastructure and water quality protection across New York. This bold investment builds on the Governor's record of environmental leadership and helps local governments pay for local infrastructure construction projects, address water emergencies, and investigate and mitigate emerging contaminants to ensure access to clean, drinkable water for all New Yorkers.

The Clean Water Infrastructure act includes over $1.5 billion in grants for water infrastructure improvements and creates a $75 million rebate program to give homeowners and small businesses an incentive to

replace and upgrade aging septic systems. In addition to traditional infrastructure, $160 million is also available for 'green' infrastructure, with $110 million dedicated for source water protection initiatives, including land acquisition.

The Governor's track record also includes enacting the $400 million Water Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2015, securing a record $300 million investment for the Environmental Protection Fund, and providing $11 billion in Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Fund financing.

Proposal: Fast-track Containment and Treatment of the 'Grumman Plume'

Governor Cuomo has made protecting New York's drinking water a top priority, investing $2.5 billion in last year's Clean Water Infrastructure Act and a 10-year $1 billion reauthorization of the State Superfund program. Because of Long Island's dependence on its sole source aquifer, the region has been a focus of the Governor's efforts, including more than $800 million to repair and

fortify the Bay Park wastewater treatment plant, $354 million to divert Bay Park sewage from the Western Bays to the Cedar Creek outfall, $10 million to restore shellfish once common to Long Island's waters in order to improve water quality, a $6 million Long Island Groundwater Study, a $5 million Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan, and directing a comprehensive groundwater impact investigation of all of Long Island's closed landfills.

In Nassau County, industrial practices at the U.S. Navy and Northrop Grumman Aerospace Bethpage facilities in the Town of Oyster Bay have left a legacy of pollution in the form of a massive contaminated groundwater plume that has affected the surrounding community since the 1930s. The underlying aquifer system and extent of contamination is extremely complex: three overlapping plumes are approximately 1.8 miles wide and 3.7 miles long, reach depths of 800 feet, and contain significant concentrations of industrial contaminants such as trichloroethene and 1,4-dioxane, which is an emerging, unregulated contaminant.

At the Governor's direction, in February 2017, DEC launched an engineering investigation to assess expedited cleanup options, including full containment of the plume, in order to ensure the contamination does not threaten additional drinking water wells. The investigation included drilling exploratory wells to a depth of 1,000 feet and synthesizing more than 180,000 groundwater sample data points spanning decades. In addition, the analysis developed a state-of-the-art 3D computer model capable of simulating groundwater flow, which—for the first time ever—allowed DEC to assess various groundwater pumping and discharge scenarios. DEC's ongoing investigation indicates that full containment and treatment is possible.

This year, New York State will fast-track construction of a new, state-of-the-art well system to fully contain and treat the plume of contamination and protect the quality of drinking water on Long Island. The system will likely include at least 14 wells strategically located around the perimeter of the plume to prevent it from migrating further south and impacting additional

communities. In addition, priority wells will be located within the plume to target hot spots of contamination. The well system will extract and treat the water using carbon filtration, air stripping technology, and ultraviolet light, as well as advanced oxidation to treat 1,4-dioxane and return treated water to the aquifer.

To jump-start the remediation effort, the State will fast-track well construction in 2018 and will use all legal tools at its disposal to hold the U.S. Navy and Northrop Grumman accountable for the construction and operation of the containment and treatment system. The full containment and treatment system is estimated to cost at least $150 million to construct.

Proposal: Sue the EPA to Complete the Hudson River Cleanup

From the 1940s through the 1970s, General Electric manufacturing facilities in Hudson Falls and Fort Edward dumped well in excess of one million pounds of hazardous polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) directly into the river, impacting the health and livelihood of

communities along the Hudson River ever since, including the decimation of a once-thriving commercial fishery valued at $40 million. Governor Cuomo has urged the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to conduct a complete and thorough review of ongoing cleanup efforts, and in 2016, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) demanded the EPA take additional samples of river sediments in order to determine the effectiveness of the dredging. When the EPA refused, DEC led the effort by collecting over 1,200 samples in 2017.

Governor Cuomo, in partnership with Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, has committed to immediately take steps necessary to sue the EPA if the agency accepts the Upper Hudson River cleanup of polychlorinated biphenyls as complete. The EPA was expected to certify the remedy in late December, but has apparently delayed its decision. In light of the overwhelming evidence and data that the remedy is not protective of human health and the environment, EPA's

decision to certify the PCB remedy for the Upper Hudson River as complete is indefensible.

As the EPA continues to abdicate its responsibility, Governor Cuomo will fight to protect the river and the surrounding communities. The Governor and Attorney General will sue the federal government if it ignores the overwhelming evidence and data and demand that the dredging is completed once and for all. New York is also prepared to withdraw from the 2002 Record of Decision (ROD) which guided the cleanup and removal of millions of tons of PCB-contaminated sediment from the Upper Hudson River.

The ROD, which was signed under a previous administration, guided the cleanup effort and removal of millions of tons of PCB-contaminated sediment from a portion of the Upper Hudson River; specifically, it expected PCB levels in fish would rapidly decline. Unfortunately, EPA's 2002 decision relied on flawed modeling rather than actual sampling data, and their current draft five-year review of the dredging effectiveness, together with fish contamination data and

recent DEC sediment sampling, indicates these objectives will not be met. The EPA's own analysis indicates that fish species will not reach the levels envisioned in the cleanup plan for more than fifty years absent additional action. That is simply too long and not consistent with the estimates in the ROD. The EPA must evaluate the removal of additional contamination and must not issue a certificate of completion at this time.

Proposal: Attack Harmful Algal Blooms in New York's Waters

Under Governor Cuomo's leadership, New York has launched an aggressive campaign to protect our water quality, passing the landmark $2.5 billion Clean Water Infrastructure Act in the FY 2018 budget and taking action to address the threat of harmful algal blooms (HABs). The State has developed the most comprehensive HABs outreach and monitoring programs in the country, led by Department of Environmental Conservation sampling ambient waters across the state and Department of Health sampling at

regulated beaches and public water systems. The Governor has also directed aggressive actions to protect the public when blooms have impacted susceptible drinking water supplies, including investing $2 million towards the design, engineering, and construction of upgrades to the drinking water treatment systems in the City of Auburn and Town of Owasco in 2017.

In recent years, the extent, duration, and impacts, and awareness of HABs have increased, threatening the recreational use of lakes that are essential to upstate tourism, as well as sources of drinking water. In 2017, more than 100 beaches were closed for at least part of the summer due to HABs, and Skaneateles Lake, a cherished source of unfiltered drinking water for several communities including the city of Syracuse, was threatened by algal blooms for the first time. While the finished drinking water was not impacted, this event highlights the need to better understand the causes and control of these HABs.

This year, Governor Cuomo will implement a $65 million 4-point initiative to aggressively combat harmful

algal blooms in Upstate New York. Twelve priority lakes that are vulnerable to HABs and are critical sources of drinking water and vital tourism drivers were chosen as priority waterbodies because they represent a wide range of conditions and vulnerabilities and the lessons learned will be applied to other impacted waterbodies moving forward. Those lakes are:

- Western Group: Conesus Lake; Honeoye Lake; Chautauqua Lake
- Central Group: Owasco Lake; Skaneateles Lake; Cayuga Lake
- North Country Group: Lake Champlain at Port Henry; New York portion of Lake Champlain at Isle La Motte watershed; Lake George
- Greater Hudson Valley Group: Lake Carmel; Palmer Lake; Putnam Lake; Monhagen Brook watershed, including the five reservoirs serving the Middletown area

The State's Water Quality Rapid Response Team will convene four Regional Summits to bring together nation-leading experts with Steering Committees of local

stakeholders established for each lake. The Rapid Response Team, national experts, and local stakeholders will collaboratively develop Action Plans to identify contributing factors fueling HABs and the state will provide $500,000 per lake to develop immediate action plans to reduce sources of pollution that spark algal blooms. The state will provide nearly $60 million in grant funding to implement the Action Plans, including new monitoring and treatment technologies. This comprehensive program will continue New York's national leadership in responding to the threat of harmful algal blooms and establish a national model for protecting our natural resources.

Proposal: Require Expedited Corrective Actions at the Niagara Falls Wastewater Treatment Facility

Governor Cuomo's strong commitments to protecting New York's water quality and growing the State's tourism industry were linked in 2017, as he worked to stem dark water discharges from the Niagara Falls Wastewater Treatment Facility. Following visible

releases this summer, Governor Cuomo directed the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to hold the Niagara Falls Water Board accountable and to take actions to protect water quality at this iconic tourist attraction. DEC's assessment concluded that poor operation and inadequate design of the facility caused the non-permitted discharges, requiring repairs and improved training, amongst other steps.

To ensure that the Niagara Falls wastewater facility's problems are resolved in a comprehensive fashion, Governor Cuomo will invest over $20 million to launch Phase One of the wastewater system overhaul to complete comprehensive infrastructure and operational improvements at the Niagara Falls Wastewater Treatment Facility. The Governor's proposal also provides $500,000 to expedite two engineering studies that are evaluating both the plant's discharges and treatment systems, which are required by the new consent order with the Niagara Falls Water Board. The results of these studies will help guide and inform the

$20 million Phase One investment, serving to protect one of the nation's greatest natural treasures.

5. LEADING THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

Part 1. Building a Cleaner, More Resilient Future

Under Governor Cuomo's leadership, New York has established some of the nation's strongest policies fighting against climate change. The Governor created the comprehensive Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) policy to develop a sustainable, affordable and modern energy system, and set greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets of 40 percent by 2030 and 80 percent by 2050. In June 2017, Governor Cuomo also formed the U.S. Climate Alliance with the Governors of California and Washington State to ensure that New York and other partner states continue to meet or exceed the targets of the Paris Agreement on climate change despite the federal government's abdication of climate leadership.

In these critical times, New York State will continue to step up and protect our environment, health, and the future of our children.

Proposal: Expand Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and Reduce Emissions Equitably From the Highest-Polluting, High Demand "Peaker" Power Plants

In 2013, Governor Cuomo led the nine Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) states in reducing the cap on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from power plants 50 percent by 2020. Since that time, the RGGI program has continued to exceed expectations, providing over $2 billion in regional economic benefits and public health benefits of $5.7 billion while reducing GHG emissions more than required by the declining cap. In August 2017, the other RGGI states agreed to Governor Cuomo's 2017 State of the State call to reduce the cap another 30 percent by 2030. In his 2016 State of the State address, Governor Cuomo also committed to phasing out the use of coal in the state's power plants by 2020. At the same time, the Governor created the Electric Generation Facility Cessation Mitigation Fund to

address the needs of the local communities affected by any closure.

As the federal government dismantles U.S. climate policy including the Clean Power Plan, it is imperative for states to work together in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. As a multi-state partnership that has enjoyed tremendous success, RGGI is uniquely positioned to continue progress in reducing power sector emissions, but it can be improved to better address unique concerns of overburdened communities. For example, RGGI currently only covers power plants with a capacity of 25 megawatts or greater, leaving out many smaller but highly polluting "peaking" units, which operate intermittently during periods of high electricity demand. These polluting units are often located close to population centers that come online to meet peak electricity demand on excessively hot or cold days, and disproportionately impact low-income and minority communities that already face a multitude of environmental burdens.

In 2018, Governor Cuomo looks forward to working with the other RGGI states and potential new partners in Virginia and New Jersey to ensure a smooth transition to a broader, more cost-efficient GHG market that maintains the initiative's ambitious reductions in climate pollution.

The Governor will also direct the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to undertake a rule-making in 2018 to implement the 30 percent cap reduction of carbon dioxide to avoid nearly 133 million tons of additional carbon pollution region-wide from the electric power sector announced by the RGGI states in August 2017, including revisions to strengthen RGGI by grouping together and thereby covering peaking units that collectively exceed RGGI's capacity threshold of 25 megawatts. The Governor will also direct DEC to work with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) to engage the Environmental Justice & Just Transition Working Group convened by the Governor in 2017, to ensure that Environmental Justice communities benefit equitably

from investment of RGGI auction proceeds. DEC and NYSERDA will also continue and expand efforts to ensure workers affected by the eventual retirement of fossil fuel plants are able to fully realize the new opportunities created in the transition to a clean energy economy and find new well-paying clean energy jobs.

This year, DEC will also propose complementary reforms to reduce emissions of smog-forming pollutants from peaking units and will adopt regulations ending the use of coal in the state's power plants by 2020. In addition, DEC will adopt regulations ending the use of coal in the state's power plants by 2020. This is something the Governor called for in his 2016 State of the State address.

Proposal: Reconvene Scientific Advisory Committee on Climate Change Disbanded by the Federal Government

In June 2017, Governor Cuomo formed the U.S. Climate Alliance with the Governors of California and Washington State to ensure that New York State and

other willing partners continue to meet or exceed the targets of the Paris Agreement on climate change. While the federal government turns a blind eye to the need for climate action, New York State is doubling down.

After announcing its withdrawal from the Paris Agreement, the federal government took another misguided step by disbanding the Federal Advisory Committee for the Sustained National Climate Assessment,[74] a group of leading scientists and stakeholders tasked with providing recommendations to the federal government on scientific information to support state and local governments, communities, and the private sector in planning for the effects of climate change. In the absence of guidance from the Advisory Committee, decision-makers will have limited ability to know how climate change will impact their organizations and communities, and what they can do to better plan for those impacts.

Therefore, Governor Cuomo, as co-chair of the U.S. Climate Alliance and in collaboration with partners, will reconvene the Advisory Committee to develop

recommendations to navigate the challenges of climate change. As a result, the Advisory Committee will continue its critical work without political interference and provide the guidance needed to adapt to a changing climate.

Proposal: Launch Resilient NY to Dramatically Enhance Community Resiliency in the Face of Extreme Weather

New Yorkers have experienced the devastation of extreme weather associated with climate change firsthand. From events such as Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Irene, Tropical Storm Lee and severe drought in Western New York to the recent flooding on Lake Ontario and flash flooding in the Mohawk Valley last summer, there is no denying that we must prepare for extreme weather that is increasing in frequency due to our changing climate. In each of these instances, Governor Cuomo has taken bold, aggressive action, pioneering landmark initiatives like the NY Rising program, to ensure that communities affected by

extreme weather have not only recovered, but built back better than before.

New York's approach is in stark contrast to that of the federal government, which is rolling back its flood resiliency rules. For example, in Houston, federally funded recovery projects are only required to meet a 100-year flood elevation standard[75]—despite the fact that Houston has experienced three 500-year flooding events in the last three years alone.[76] Recognizing that the effects of climate change are only predicted to get worse, New York is shifting its focus to a proactive rather than reactive approach.

This year, Governor Cuomo proposes to develop a comprehensive program to adapt to and prepare for extreme weather associated with climate change. The Governor will direct the Department of Environmental Conservation to issue resiliency guidelines modeled after a federal order that was unwisely revoked, and further require that state funding for infrastructure projects consider these commonsense resiliency criteria. Additionally, the Department of State will recommend

changes to the State Fire Prevention and Building Code that will increase climate resiliency, and the Department of Environmental Conservation will update and improve its maps of wetlands and coastal risk areas. State agencies will also lead by example with the implementation of individual adaptation plans based on the risks identified by the State Vulnerability Assessment funded by the Environmental Protection Fund.

Finally, the State will provide financial support for state-of-the-art local resiliency plans to create a pipeline of projects to increase the flood resiliency of our communities by protecting streams, coasts and critical infrastructure-such as hospitals, transit systems, bridges, water and wastewater infrastructure, dams, culverts and levees, as well as homes and small businesses. Interagency response teams will also conduct at least 40 emergency flood response trainings in communities across New York annually.

Proposal: Establish New Energy Efficiency Target by Earth Day

In order to combat climate change, New Yorkers must increase the use of clean and renewable energy, but must also lower our overall energy consumption. Energy efficiency is a highly effective way to lower energy bills for New Yorkers and to meet New York State's nation-leading clean energy and environmental goals. New York's approach is geared to achieve the most value for customers and for the energy system by reducing costs, protecting the environment, and creating good jobs. With more than 110,000 New Yorkers employed in energy-efficiency related jobs, the industry is already a major component of New York's clean energy economy. Building on the progress made through utility programs and cutting-edge work to reduce energy use in state facilities, Governor Cuomo launched the $5 billion Clean Energy Fund in 2016 to support investment in energy efficient technologies. This initiative is already demonstrating significant progress across New York State, from Upstate farms and greenhouses to

commercial buildings in Manhattan. These activities are expected to save New Yorkers a remarkable $39 billion in energy costs over the next 10 years while significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

However, much work remains to realize the full potential of energy efficiency for New Yorkers. Homeowners and renters often do not invest in comprehensive energy-saving upgrades due to high upfront costs or lack of knowledge about the financing and technology options that can save money over the long-term. And while significant innovation and growth have been achieved in the renewable energy industry in New York, energy efficiency has not been on the same trajectory towards greater energy savings and greenhouse gas reductions like solar and wind. Creating a more energy efficient New York will require effort across the board to attract greater investment and innovation in energy efficiency.

To address this, Governor Cuomo is directing the New York Department of Public Service and the New

York State Energy and Research Development Authority to:

- Engage stakeholders in the public and private sectors, and propose a comprehensive and far-reaching energy efficiency initiative by Earth Day, April 22, 2018;
- Propose a new 2025 energy efficiency target achieved through cost effective implementation strategies and innovative approaches from both utilities and the Clean Energy Fund, which will accelerate progress towards the state's ambitious climate and clean energy goals; and
- Identify opportunities by which state facilities can lead by example.

In addition, NYSERDA will propose the establishment of appliance efficiency standards, with support for implementation from the Clean Energy Fund. This strategy is proven to achieve significant energy savings and is a function recently abdicated by the federal government. As co-chair of the U.S. Climate Alliance, New York State will work with its partners in

other states to help scale state-level appliance efficiency. Working through the U.S. Climate Alliance and with other partners, New York State will provide certainty to manufacturers that appliance efficiency standards must be met across the United States.

Proposal: Create the Zero Cost Solar for All Program for 10,000 Low-Income New Yorkers

Reducing the energy burden of low-income households and ensuring their participation in the clean energy economy are central goals in Governor Cuomo's energy policies. The Governor's REV strategy aims to ensure that the economic, environmental and health benefits of clean energy are accessible to New Yorkers who are most in need. In 2016, Governor Cuomo also unveiled the Energy Affordability Policy to limit energy prices and provide direct cost relief for low-income New Yorkers, and expanded it the following year to bring the total program benefits to $260 million. Governor Cuomo further directed a collaborative effort among State agencies to form a low-income energy task force to

develop strategies to increase access to clean energy and energy efficiency programs for all 2.3 million low-income New York households.

Community solar is an REV initiative that enables customers to share in the benefits of solar power even if they live in an apartment or other building that cannot support a rooftop solar system. This initiative is one of the best options for low-income customers to access solar power and reduce their energy costs, but since community solar is relatively new and not yet widely adopted, low-income customers have yet to realize the program's full potential.

To help low-income New Yorkers reap the benefits of solar power, the Governor is directing the New York State Energy and Research Development Authority (NYSERDA) to use its purchasing power to secure community solar subscriptions for low-income customers and provide them at zero cost to deliver cost savings and clean energy to more than 10,000 low-income New Yorkers, and to contribute to helping achieve the Governor's Clean Energy Standard. The

Governor is also directing NYSERDA to work with low-income energy efficiency programs, utilities, community agencies, solar project developers, investors and other stakeholders to market the program to low-income customers and develop strategies for how the program can better serve low-income New Yorkers and help them participate in the growing clean energy economy.

Proposal: Reduce Emissions of the Most Potent and Dangerous Greenhouse Gases

Governor Cuomo's climate change policies are leading the nation toward a cleaner, more sustainable future. Through nation-leading efforts like the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, New York State is aggressively cutting carbon dioxide, which is the primary greenhouse gas emitted through human activities. Governor Cuomo has also launched targeted initiatives to tackle other greenhouse gasses, launching the 25-point Methane Reduction Plan in 2017 to reduce emissions of the heat-trapping pollutant that is up to 2512 times powerful than carbon dioxide.[77]

However, we must continue to make strides in reducing other greenhouse gasses, like hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), which are most commonly used in air conditioners and refrigerators and can be up to 22,000 more potent than carbon dioxide.[78] Manufacturers across the globe embraced the use of HFCs as replacement for the ozone-depleting gases banned by the Montreal Protocol in 1989. In 2016, the U.S. and 196 other countries agreed to amend the Montreal Protocol to limit HFCs, but Congress has yet to ratify the amendment. If left unchecked, HFCs could represent as much as a quarter of New York's greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

This year, Governor Cuomo will direct the Department of Environmental Conservation, New York State Energy and Research Development Authority and the Department of State, to develop a comprehensive strategy to reduce HFC emissions by incentivizing the use of climate-friendly alternatives. This effort will provide rebates to municipalities to replace or retrofit converting large cooling systems, like public ice rinks

and school cafeterias, to safer alternative technologies. It will also develop new building codes to encourage the use of climate-friendly alternatives and provide free audits and technical assistance to help businesses identify opportunities to reduce emissions and costs. New York State will also work with fellow U.S. Climate Alliance member states to explore options for phasing out HFCs in alignment with the Paris Agreement and the Montreal Protocol. By providing tools to account for the leakage of highly-potent greenhouse gases and assistance for switching to cleaner alternatives, this proposal will save businesses and consumers money, cut down on energy usage and help protect New Yorkers from the worst effects of climate change.

Proposal: Invest Nearly $130 Million in Volkswagen Settlement Proceeds in Clean Transportation Projects

At Governor Cuomo's direction, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is working with other state agencies, authorities and stakeholders to develop a plan to achieve the greatest possible benefit for

New York from the $127.7 million available to New York from the settlement of Volkswagen's violation of the Clean Air Act. DEC, working with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority and the transportation agencies and authorities, will produce a plan early this year to support the transition of the transit system to electric or other advanced technologies, including the replacement of diesel transit buses across the state.

The plan will also include the replacement of old, high-emitting school buses that pollute the air in the vicinity of schools and freight trucks that operate in crowded urban areas, with particular benefits to environmental justice communities. All categories of investment will prioritize replacement of diesel vehicles with emission-free electric vehicles, stimulating the transformation to a low-carbon transportation system. Additionally, DEC will support electrification of airport equipment, repowering of tugs and ferries, and replacement of freight switcher locomotives that operate in the state's urban switchyards. With this strategic,

comprehensive plan, New York State will seek to invest all of the Volkswagen settlement funds over the next three years.

Proposal: Develop Comprehensive Strategies to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions from the Transportation Sector

To continue his national leadership on climate change, Governor Cuomo will direct the President of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority and the Commissioners of the Departments of Environmental Conservation and Transportation to recommend, in consultation with the Metropolitan Transit Authority, other state transportation authorities, environmental, consumer and other stakeholders to develop policy approaches to reduce carbon emissions from the transportation sector.

This effort will create new opportunities to provide cleaner mobility alternatives, alleviate congestion, reduce air pollution, create jobs and rebuild a more resilient transportation system that is less

susceptible to extreme weather events. They will also coordinate with other states participating in the Transportation and Climate Initiative to explore potential regional policies and partnerships for states to work together in reducing transportation emissions.

Proposal: Establish and Develop the Climate Justice Road Map

In 2017, Governor Cuomo established an Environmental Justice and Just Transition Working Group of external stakeholders. Combined with a record-high $8 million investment from the State Environmental Protection Fund to support grassroots organizations and local training programs to prepare young adults in environmental justice areas, we are growing New York's green economy and fighting climate change simultaneously. This year, New York State will further its efforts to ensure climate equity, encourage the meaningful participation of communities in state policymaking, and facilitate access to jobs in the growing green economy.

The Working Group, comprising stakeholders from across the state, is providing independent advice and recommendations to New York as the state takes strong action to mitigate climate change and transition to a clean energy economy. Recognizing that climate change both exacerbates existing vulnerabilities and presents new opportunities for historically underinvested communities, the State must prioritize climate-vulnerable environmental justice and low-income communities—both urban and rural—as the State implements programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, develops greater resiliency and builds a clean energy economy. To identify actions to address the needs of these communities, the State, in consultation with the Environmental Justice and Just Transition Working Group, will develop a Climate Justice Road Map to identify programs and policies to be developed with regular coordination with stakeholders and the Working Group.

Proposal: Prepare Puerto Rico for the New Climate Reality

New York State knows too well the devastation of severe weather, and has taken tremendous strides to "build back better" in the wake of Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Irene, and Tropical Storm Lee. To meet the challenge of a changing climate, Governor Cuomo launched Reforming the Energy Vision (REV), the nation's leading policy to build a clean, affordable and resilient energy system for all New Yorkers. Because of this experience and expertise, when Puerto Rico was struck by the devastating one-two punch of Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria, New York was ready to act.

On September 22, 2017, Governor Cuomo boarded the first flight to depart for San Juan since Hurricane Maria made landfall just two days earlier, bringing critically needed supplies and personnel to the island. To date, the Governor has made three trips to Puerto Rico, sent more than 3,400 pallets of critical supplies, and deployed more than 1,000 personnel — including more than 450 utility workers to expedite

power restoration. In addition, on November 2, 2017, Governor Cuomo joined with Governor Rosselló of Puerto Rico to announce the formation of a multidisciplinary team to help Puerto Rico assess storm damage to secure a robust federal aid package. As a part of this effort, the newly-formed Puerto Rico Energy Resiliency Work Group, composed of experts from the New York Power Authority, Long Island Power Authority, ConEdison, PSEG, Edison International, Electric Power Research Institute, Smart Electric Power Alliance, U.S. Department of Energy, and national labs completed a blueprint for rebuilding a more resilient, sustainable grid hardened to withstand future storms. The blueprint, known as Build Back Better: Reimagining and Strengthening the Power Grid of Puerto Rico, is currently being used by Puerto Rico's utility PREPA and Governor Rosselló to help inform the recovery process.

In 2018, New York State will help implement the blueprint to create a new energy system for Puerto Rico that sets a global example for cost, resilience, sustainability, and customer engagement and

empowerment. First, NYPA and other members of the Puerto Rico Energy Resiliency Group will engage with new stakeholders to assist PREPA with performing system studies and updating the Integrated Resource Plan for the Island, both required for successful implementation of the blueprint. The team will work with the newly formed Central Recovery and Reconstruction Office (CRRO) under Governor Rosselló, as well as FEMA and other appropriate state and federal agencies to establish the processes and tools required to manage the repair and modernization of the energy grid. Second, NYPA and its partners will help Puerto Rico make the case in Washington for approval of the $17 billion request for aid to repair, harden and modernize the Island's energy system. NYPA and its partners will brief interested parties such as the U.S. Senate and Congressional energy committees, as well as relevant federal agencies including FEMA, DOE, HUD and DHS on the rebuilding plan, and advocate for approval of the full funding request. Third, NYPA along with other industry leaders will participate in the Transformation Advisory

Council formed by PREPA's Board of Directors. NYPA will share knowledge and experience gained working on the LIPA Reform Act, including securitization of debt, and exploration of options to develop a long-term vision for the energy sector that empowers customers and meets Puerto Rico's needs for affordable, sustainable energy service and an integrated, reliable network with increased penetration of renewable energy.

6. ADVANCING THE DEMOCRACY AGENDA

Part 1. Protecting the Sanctity of Our Elections

Voting is the cornerstone of our democracy, and Governor Cuomo has taken unprecedented action to protect the sanctity of the election process and expand access to the polls to all New Yorkers. In the wake of reports of Russian interference in the U.S. 2016 election, for example, Governor Cuomo directed the New York State Cyber Security Advisory Board, created in 2013, to work with State agencies and the State and County Boards of Election to assess the threats to the cyber security of New York's elections infrastructure, identify security priorities, and recommend any necessary additional security measures.

This past year, the centennial anniversary year of women's suffrage in New York, the Governor also

announced a series of aggressive executive actions designed to expand voter registration opportunities for New Yorkers. These steps to help combat low voter participation across New York, which came amid troubling news that the federal government is considering actions to restrict voter access, included an Executive Order directing every state agency to make available voter registration forms and to offer assistance in filling them out as well as a call for SUNY and CUNY to ensure that required steps are being taken to increase voter registration rates among young voters on our State's public college campuses.

In 2017, Governor will expand on these efforts to protect our electoral process and restore confidence in government.

Proposal: Increase Transparency in Digital Political Ads

As proven in the 2016 election, social media is now as popular a venue for placing and viewing political advertisements as television, print publications, or radio. However, to date, political advertisements on social

media platforms are not regulated in the same way as advertisements on traditional media platforms. This has created new opportunities for unscrupulous and disruptive actors to improperly influence our political process. As many as 126 million Americans are estimated to have seen Russian-bought political ads on Facebook alone last year, without realizing that they were seeing content paid for by Russian agents.[79] Additionally, 131,000 Twitter messages, linked to more than 36,000 Russian accounts, have also been identified. Given the prevalence of political advertisements on social media during the 2016 Presidential election, it is critical to address their regulation just as on traditional media.

Governor Cuomo proposes the strongest and most comprehensive policy to ensure that elections in New York State remain fair and transparent and that online political ads are archived for all to see. In recent months, a bipartisan group of U.S. Senators and House members introduced legislation to regulate online advertising for federal elections, and Facebook and Twitter have adopted new policies to ensure transparency and retention of political advertising. The

Governor's proposal will codify those practices into New York law, ensuring that all online platforms adopt similar policies and encouraging other states to do the same.

To ensure the fairness and transparency of New York elections, Governor Cuomo is putting forth a three-pronged strategy to:

- **Expand New York State's definition of political communication to include paid internet and digital advertisements:** New York State law currently requires that all political advertising on television, radio, and newspapers disclose the organization or individual paying for that ad, but this requirement does not apply to political advertisements online. This proposal will update the definition of "political communication" to include paid internet and digital advertisements, and require that all advertisers include a disclosure in their election-related ads, such as "paid for by." In this way, anyone who sees a political ad online will know, first, that it is indeed

a paid political ad; and second, who is responsible for it.

- **Require digital platforms to maintain a public file of all political advertisements purchased by a person or group for publication on the platform:** As stated by Senators Klobuchar, McCain, and Warner in their federal proposal for the Honest Ads Act, the public nature of television, radio, and satellite ensures a level of publicity for any political advertisement, and makes them accessible to the press, fact-checkers, and political opponents. This publicity discourages the dissemination of false, inflammatory, or contradictory information. In contrast, on social media and other online platforms, the ability to directly target portions of the electorate with ephemeral advertisements based on private information held by the platform facilitates political advertisements that are often contradictory, inflammatory or false. To rectify this and ensure greater transparency in online

political advertisements, Governor Cuomo proposes to require digital platforms to maintain a public file of all political communications purchased by a person or group on their platform related to New York State elections. The file would contain a digital copy of the advertisement, a description of the audience the advertisement targets, the number of views generated, the dates and times of publication, the rates charged, and the contact information of the purchaser. This archive will ensure that political ads do not disappear, and that they are viewable, and able to be fact-checked, by a larger portion of the electorate.

- **Require online platforms to make reasonable efforts to ensure that foreign individuals and entities are not purchasing political advertisements in order to influence the American electorate:** By amending state law so that paid internet or digital advertisements are included in the definition of political

communications, New York will work to ensure that foreign entities are unable to covertly purchase and distribute political advertising related to state elections through social media or other outlets. Under the new law, digital ad buyers will be required to register as an independent expenditure committee, just as they would if they were purchasing time on television. Foreign entities will be prohibited from forming an independent expenditure committee and, as a result, would be unable to purchase and publish political advertising online.

Additionally, paid political ads online will be required to clearly and conspicuously display the person who paid for the ad, and confirm that it was not authorized or requested by any candidate. Under this proposal, online political ads will face the same disclosure requirements as television or radio ads, no matter what they cost, and voters will be able to see where the ad is coming from, even if it is as small as a tweet. Violations of these

requirements would be subject to a civil penalty of up to $1,000 for each instance.

Proposal: Institute Early Voting

New York is one of only 13 states where early voting is not available and an excuse is required to request an absentee ballot. New Yorkers can vote via absentee ballot only if the voter meets certain qualifications such as being absent from his or her county on Election Day or being unable to get to the polls due to a disability.

Research shows that work, school, and personal commitments can prevent voters from participating in United States elections.[80] Early voting would ameliorate these inhibitors and lead to shorter lines on Election Day, early detection and correction of registration errors and greater access to voting.[81] Currently, 37 states and the District of Columbia already allow voters to cast ballots in person before Election Day.

To make it easier for New Yorkers to vote, Governor Cuomo proposes to institute early voting in the State. The proposal requires every county to offer

residents access to at least one early voting poll site during the 12 days leading up to Election Day. Voters will have at least eight hours on weekdays and five hours on weekends to cast early ballots. Counties must have one early voting poll site for every 50,000 residents and the bipartisan County Boards of Elections will determine the specific location of early voting polling places, subject to standards of accessibility and convenience.

Proposal: Adopt Automatic Voter Registration

Citizens can already register to vote at the DMV, but often face unnecessary, onerous regulations requiring a potential voter to include additional voting information in their application for a DMV service. Paper applications can introduce errors to voter rolls, and inaccurate registrations can lead to voters encountering difficulties at the polls. Automatic voter registration can lead to improved accuracy of voter registration lists, reduced costs, and a more convenient and efficient process for voters and election officials.

To modernize the voter registration process, the Governor proposes adopting a system that implements automatic voter registration. The new system will streamline state services by automatically sending voters' information from relevant agencies application directly to the County Board of Elections. New Yorkers who do not wish to register to vote can simply check an "opt out" box.

Proposal: Allow Same-Day Voter Registration

New York does not currently allow voters to register on Election Day. Thirteen other states and the District of Columbia allow same-day registration, which has greatly increased the accessibility of the democratic process to everyday citizens. Governor Cuomo proposes to allow New Yorkers to register and vote on the same day so that onerous and counter-intuitive registration deadlines do not prevent New Yorkers from having the opportunity to participate in the electoral process.

Proposal: Enhance Statewide Election Cyber Security Resilience and Defend Against Election Disruption

The U.S. intelligence community has assessed with "high confidence" that the Russian Government proactively sought to interfere with the 2016 U.S. elections.[82] The federal Department of Homeland Security recently notified twenty-one states that the Russian Government attempted to gain access to their online election infrastructure in the buildup to and during the election.[83] In times like these, government must take the initiative to secure our democracy. Governor Cuomo proposes to do just that with the following bold steps to secure New York's elections:

- The State will create the Election Support Center, which will provide technical expertise and trainers to assist the State Board of Elections with developing regulations to enhance the cyber security of elections infrastructure; train County Boards of Elections (CBOEs) members in cyber security best practices; and ensure that relevant threat

intelligence is quickly distributed to local stakeholders.

- The State will create and deploy the Elections Cyber Security Support Toolkit – a new suite of threat mitigation tools to ensure election security at the state and local levels. This will include log-in and network monitoring software and hardware and services, Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) defense, and change-detection software to ensure that all changes to voter databases are logged and monitored, and any inconsistencies and discrepancies are identified, investigated, and corrected in a timely manner.
- The Office of Information Technology Services will provide cyber risk vulnerability assessments and support to County Boards of Elections to ensure vulnerabilities are identified and voting machines are protected. The State will also offer free hosted Disaster

Recovery services to ensure the integrity of voter information is protected.

- Finally, to further ensure the integrity of our elections, the Governor will require County Boards of Elections to notify the State Board of Elections and the State Police whenever there is a data breach that could potentially expose private voter or election information; and require the State Board of Elections to issue an annual New York Election Security Report to the Executive and Legislature outlining security risks and recommendations for remediation actions the State should take to address those risks.

These aggressive actions affirm Governor Cuomo's commitment to secure the accuracy and integrity of votes cast and voter information. New York will stand firm and ensure that our democratic values are strengthened rather than eroded by those that seek to undermine our system of governance.

Part 2. Increasing Transparency and Continuing Ethics Reform

Since his first day in office, Governor Cuomo has fought aggressively for comprehensive ethics reform. Governor Cuomo's advocacy began with the Public Integrity Reform Act of 2011 to increase transparency and accountability throughout State government. Among other things, the Public Integrity Reform Act required elected officials and policy makers convicted of corruption to forfeit their pension and strengthened disclosure requirements for lobbyists and 501(c)(4) organizations.

The Governor's relentless efforts culminated with an historic agreement in 2016 with the Legislature to further advance critical election, lobbying, and enforcement reforms. One of the many pieces of this bill included first-in-the-nation legislation to curb the power of independent expenditure campaigns and end coordination in political campaigns unleashed by the 2010 Supreme Court case *Citizens United vs. the Federal Election Commission.* The Citizens United case unleashed

a torrent of dark money into our political system, stymieing ordinary peoples' ability to have their voices heard. Another piece of this bill was designed to shed sunlight on the funding behind issue advertisements that are communicated to large groups of people, so that the public may know exactly who, and how much is being spent on influencing elections and the legislative process. Last year's ethics reforms were also designed to combat dark money in politics by increasing the required disclosures for groups affiliated with lobbying organizations to prevent donors from hiding in the shadows because at the end of the day, the public deserves to know who is trying to influence those elected to serve the public. Still other sections increased reporting thresholds so that more disclosure would be required from persons and entities engaged in lobbying, and yet other sections increased penalties for lobbyists' misdeeds. But there is still work to be done. This year, Governor Cuomo proposes a two-fold approach to ethics and good government reforms. His proposals will reiterate the continued need to address unresolved

problems, shed sunlight on our political process and those who fund aspects of it, and will also identify new solutions to rebuild the trust and confidence that New Yorkers should have in their elected representatives.

The Governor will propose constitutional amendments to limit outside income for members of the New York State Legislature, and to impose term limits for members of the Legislature and state-wide elected officials. He will propose closing the "LLC Loophole" as well as additional campaign finance reforms, requiring local elected officials to file financial disclosure requirements either the same as their state counterparts or approved by the state, and proposing comprehensive reforms to the Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) to achieve consistency and increase transparency. He will also propose expanding the authority of the State Inspector General and enacting reforms to ensure greater oversight over the current state procurement process.

Proposal: Advance Constitutional Amendment Limiting Outside Income and Creating a Fulltime Legislature

The Legislature's part-time structure allows professionals from a variety of backgrounds and experiences to serve the public. Yet concerns have been raised about potential conflicts of interests that may arise from income legislators derive from other employment. To strike the right balance between public service and private ventures, the Governor proposes a constitutional amendment to be put before the voters that would limit outside income for legislators to 15 percent of their base salary. This 15 percent limit is the same limit our federal government places on federal legislators' outside income.

Proposal: Advance Constitutional Amendment Imposing Term Limits for Elected Officials

Current term limits require members of the Legislature to seek re-election every two years, yet there are no limits on the number of terms they may seek. The

Governor proposes a constitutional amendment to create 4-year legislative terms for members of the Senate and the Assembly. The proposed constitutional amendment would also impose 8-year term limits for new members, and impose term limits for statewide officials.

Proposal: Require Members of the Legislature Seeking Outside Income to Obtain an Advisory Opinion Before Earning Outside Income

Currently legislators may earn income from private ventures without being required to obtain any analysis or approval regarding whether the outside income presents conflicts of interest with their duties to the public. The executive branch, in contrast, is required to submit requests for approvals to a conflict check analysis in order to head off ethical issues. Because legislators do not have to seek an opinion of outside income from the legislative ethics commission, and the commission does not have to issue any opinion to any member looking to earn outside income, legislators may

get little to no guidance in thinking through inherent conflicts.

As such, the Governor proposes legislation which would require all legislators to seek an advisory opinion from the legislative ethics commission before earning outside income. To further support in their deliberations and discussions regarding outside income and conflicts of interest and reinforce the public's trust in the process, a designee from the Office of Court Administration would serve on the commission. By examining compensation from non-state activities on a case by case basis, this measure would help guide our elected representatives, prevent conflicts of interest, and increase the public's trust in all their elected officials.

Proposal: Close the LLC Loophole

To preserve open, free, and fair elections that are not captured by wealthy public interests, state law limits the amounts that both corporations and individuals may donate directly to state candidates. However, because of a quirk in the way that present election law is

interpreted, wealthy individuals and corporations can use Limited Liability Companies ("LLCs") to avoid New York's campaign donation limits. This "LLC Loophole" in campaign finance law has allowed special interests to circumvent both contribution limits and disclosure requirements. The Governor proposes closing the LLC Loophole for all elected officials. It is our responsibility to even the playing field so that rich and poor New Yorkers alike have their voices heard in our political process.

Proposal: Subject Local Elected Officials to Financial Disclosure Requirements

State elected officials are not the only ones who face conflicts, or potential conflicts, of interests. Local elected officials and agents of municipalities are equally prone to such concerns, and should be subject to the same disclosure requirements as their state counterparts.

The Governor proposes that any local elected official who earns more than $50,000 per year in a

government salary, as well as all county executives, county managers, and all chairs of county board of supervisors file the same financial disclosure statements that state employees file with the Joint Commission on Public Ethics, or a similar form to be approved by the state. This means that municipal employees would provide the same information in their financial disclosure statements as state employees, including his or her spouse's or partner's income. Sunlight, in this instance, goes a long way towards assuring the public that those entrusted with government service are fulfilling their duty to the public.

Proposal: Institute Public Financing and Enact Additional Campaign Finance Reforms

Every day, ordinary New Yorkers struggle to make their voices heard in our political system. No matter the issue, candidates are incentivized to focus on large donations over small ones. The only way to truly fix this problem is to institute a public financing system for political campaigns that matches funds from small

donations. Governor Cuomo proposes to do just that by instituting a voluntary public financing system that matches small donations with public funds. Only then will all New Yorkers, not just a select few, gain the power to make their voices heard. New York law also continues to allow unlimited contributions to party "housekeeping" accounts by individuals and corporations.

These accounts are designed to support non-campaign party activities, but instead provide another mechanism for big donors to impact political campaigns. New York also still allows a campaign's intermediary, known as a "bundler", to pass large groupings of individual contributions to a single campaign without disclosing the bundler's identify. The Governor proposes to address both issues by placing a $25,000 contribution limit on housekeeping accounts and requiring all "bundlers" to disclose their identities.

Proposal: Promote Increased Transparency through Comprehensive Reforms to FOIL

The New York Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) governs the public's right to access government records and provides transparency for citizens into the workings of state government. The Governor proposes a comprehensive reform of FOIL to improve transparency and promote openness in state government, including requiring proactive disclosure of certain records. But transparency cannot just be limited to the Executive—everyone must be held to the same standard.

The Governor therefore proposes that FOIL apply equally to the Legislature. Additionally, the Governor proposes that both FOIL and the state's Open Meetings Law apply to both JCOPE as well as the Legislative Ethics Commission to further ensure transparency, accountability, and increase public confidence in all aspects of state government.

Proposal: Expand the Authority of the State Inspector General

New York's State Inspector General is charged with ensuring that State government, its employees, and all who partner with the State meet the highest standards of integrity and accountability. To that end, there have been recent reports of financial abuses at and within the State University of New York (SUNY), the City University of New York (CUNY), and their affiliated not-for-profits.

While the State Inspector General investigates these abuses within SUNY and CUNY, this statutory authority does not currently extend to the affiliated nonprofit entities that work in concert with the Universities. The Governor proposes increasing the Inspector General's jurisdiction to include oversight of nonprofit organizations and foundations that are created for the benefit of, or controlled by SUNY or CUNY.

The Inspector General would be authorized to investigate complaints of corruption, fraud, criminal activity, conflicts of interest or abuse within each

university and its affiliates, and to refer potential criminal findings within these entities for prosecution. The Governor also proposes broadening the Inspector General's authority to include all state-related procurement and the implementation and enforcement of financial control policies at SUNY and CUNY. This would allow the Inspector General to oversee the policies of any affiliated nonprofit organization and foundation of each respective university.

Proposal: Enact Procurement Reforms

Despite existing legal safeguards, conflicts of interest and unlawful conduct may jeopardize the impartiality and objectivity of the current procurement process. This risk is further heightened by the significant amount of dollars spent by state and local public agencies, which exceeds tens of billions of dollars annually.

The Governor therefore proposes creating a Chief Procurement Officer to oversee the integrity and uniformity of procurement practices across the state and

ensure state procurement staff are prepared and positioned to conduct effective and ethical procurements. To achieve these ends, the Chief Procurement Officer will spearhead a comprehensive review of current procurement practices across all state entities and relevant affiliates with the intent of establishing best practices and implementing uniform policies and procedures. These processes will be efficient, outcome focused and designed with proper safeguards so public funds are spent with the utmost integrity. Finally, the Chief Procurement Officer will lead development of additional statewide procurement training and knowledge sharing opportunities and coordinate with the State Inspector General on the integrity of the process. It is also critical to prevent state contract bidders from improperly influencing the procurement process.

The Governor therefore proposes new measures which would prohibit individuals, organizations or business entities that submit bids, quotes, or responses to state contract offers from making campaign

contributions to any officeholder in the branch of government awarding the contract while the decision is pending, and for six months following the contract award.

Finally, under current practice, the Office of the State Comptroller, the Office of the Attorney General, and the Office of General Services either undertake reviews and audits or process payments of contract vendors and/or grantees that have multiple projects with the State. However, they lack a single system to track payments and audits of these entities and fail to coordinate their efforts on a routine basis. This should change. The Governor proposes legislation that will direct these entities, along with the Chief Procurement Officer and the Office of Information Technology, to collaborate on a study and make recommendations regarding initiatives to better enable the public to track state contracts and audits.

7. BUILDING A STRONGER, SAFER NEW YORK

Part 1. Enhancing Public Safety

Governor Cuomo has consistently taken decisive action to ensure public safety for all New Yorkers. As hate crimes rose across the nation and in New York State, Governor Cuomo created a Hate Crimes Task Force to investigate every incident of bias and discrimination, offer outreach and provide education in affected communities. The Governor also convened a roundtable with over 50 religious leaders of different faiths from across the State and created a $25 million funding program entitled the "Securing Communities Against Hate Crimes Grant," which aims to strengthen security measures at schools, day care centers, and cultural

museums at risk of hate crimes or attacks because of their ideology, beliefs or mission.

This past year, New Yorkers faced the devastating consequences of extreme weather. In response to the widespread flooding along the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario, Governor Cuomo deployed hundreds of National Guardsmen and emergency personnel and established a $15 million grant program through Empire State Development to help locals recover. Similarly, New York State responded quickly and aggressively to windstorms in western New York, unusual flooding events in the Mohawk Valley, and devastating winter storm Stella by providing material support to local communities and assistance with recovery efforts.

New York's emergency response extended beyond our borders to support our neighbors and the entire New York family. In the wake of tragic extreme weather in Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Texas, Florida, and California, New York once again established itself as a national leader by sending much-needed donations, services, goods and funds to assist in relief

and recovery efforts as well as hundreds of State Troopers and National Guard members to assist these areas.

In order to combat gun and gang violence throughout the State, Governor Cuomo has also invested in innovative and evidence based crime prevention tactics including Gun Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE), which provides technical support and funding to local programs to tackle gun-involved crime, and SNUG that support neighborhood-based violence reduction programs to promote community outreach, family engagement and intervention to steer young people away from gun violence.

This year, the Governor proposes a public safety package that will build on the Governor's legacy of fighting for the safety all of New Yorkers.

Proposal: Cut Off the Pipelines of MS-13 Recruitment

In April of 2017, Governor Cuomo launched an aggressive campaign to crack down on the violent gang MS-13 in Long Island. This initiative expanded access to

State intelligence resources, provided additional investigators for the Long Island Gang Task Force, and mobilized additional Troopers to Long Island to assist with gang-related investigations.

While these actions have enhanced the State's and local law enforcement's policing capabilities, more needs to be done to stem the flow of recruits into MS-13's ranks. Although Long Island has some of the finest law enforcement agencies in the state, this problem will not be solved through law enforcement alone. The State must ensure that young people have better options available to them than joining a gang, and constructive, supportive networks to which they can turn when they need help or guidance.

New York will launch an $11.5 million comprehensive strategy to engage at-risk youth in social and educational programs as a means of cutting off the recruiting pipeline of MS-13:

- **Expand after-school programs in at-risk areas:** Governor Cuomo proposes investing $2 million to extend the Empire State After-School

Program to schools and nonprofit organizations located in at-risk areas on Long Island identified by the State Office of Children and Family Services, Division of Criminal Justice Services, Division of State Police, County Executive, and local law enforcement. This expanded initiative will keep young people engaged in sports, music, and other educational programming during after school hours and help deter any potential gang activity or involvement.

- **Expand job and vocational training opportunities for at-risk young people:** Governor Cuomo proposes creating a special $5 million program within the state's successful New York Youth Jobs voucher program in order to provide individualized job training to young people who are the most at risk from being potentially recruited into gangs. The employment and training program will also provide tax incentives to companies that provide job opportunities for at-risk youth.

- **Provide gang prevention education program ming to at-risk students:** Governor Cuomo proposes a $1.5 million investment over three years in locally run programs targeted at middle and high school students focused on early intervention and violence prevention. As street gangs such as MS-13 often attempt to recruit young people that are middle-school age, the initiative will provide in-school training and support to help students avoid gang recruitment, peer pressure, violence, and delinquent behavior.
- **Expand comprehensive support services for at-risk young people, including immigrant children:** MS-13 is infamous for its efforts targeting vulnerable young people, including immigrant youth who may not have strong family ties and social support since they are new to the country. To provide these youths with the resources they need to succeed, Governor Cuomo proposes investing $3 million over three years to support comprehensive case management for at

risk young people, with a focus on unaccompanied children entering the United States. This will include medical and mental health support, addiction treatment, trauma and family counseling, language training, and other community support services.

- **Deploy a Community Assistance Team:** The Governor will deploy a Community Assistance team composed of six State Troopers, three investigators, one senior investigator and one supervisor. This proactive team will partner with local law enforcement and use intelligence derived from the Computer Aided Dispatching Program, the New York State Intelligence Center, and Regional Crime Analysis Centers to identify and engage gang activity hot-spots or respond to departmental and community requests for increased service. This team will ensure that law enforcement have additional resources available to prevent gang victimization in the community.

This holistic approach will ensure the State is investing its resources wisely to prevent youth of younger ages from being recruited into violent gangs and intervene to disrupt gang activity.

Proposal: Construct a Field Operations Building at the Academy of Fire Science to Enhance Firefighter Training

Governor Cuomo has steadfastly supported the safety and interests of New York's firefighters throughout his administration. Under his leadership, the State has made continued investments in facilities, training, and equipment to ensure New York's firefighters are prepared to meet the demands of their dangerous job in a safe and effective manner. In last year's State of the State, the Governor announced the construction of a swift water rescue operations training simulator at the State Preparedness Training Center to provide enhanced training for emergency responders. More recently, Governor Cuomo signed legislation to

provide health care benefits to volunteer firefighters who have been diagnosed with certain cancers.

This year, Governor Cuomo will continue his commitment to provide New York's firefighters with the tools and training they need by constructing a new Field Operations Building at the New York State Academy of Fire Science. The new facility will provide career and volunteer firefighters state-of-the-art classrooms, advanced equipment, and greater space to improve and maximize the delivery of training to New York's first responders. This project will also serve as another important asset in the Southern Tier, providing construction and economic development benefits to Schuyler County and the surrounding region.

Part 2. Strengthening Anti-Terrorism and Crisis Response

Governor Cuomo has taken significant action to fight terrorism and keep New Yorkers safe from new and emerging threats. In 2016, he ordered the State's Office of Counter Terrorism to test more than 600 businesses

annually to determine if and how these organizations report suspicious activity. In 2015, he launched the "See Something, Send Something" campaign, making New York the only state with the ability to report unusual behavior via text message.

Proposal: Establish the Strongest Counter Terrorism Program in the Nation

This year served as a tragic reminder that New York remains a prime target of terrorist attacks.

In response to these new and evolving threats, the Governor recently announced a partnership with world renowned counter terrorism experts to review the State's security posture and issue recommendations for its improvement. These recommendations will be forthcoming shortly and with them New York will establish the strongest counter terrorism program in the nation, making us better prepared than ever before to meet modern threats posed by terrorism. Further, they will provide recommendations to better protect our

bridges, tunnels, trains, buses and airports, as well as our transit hubs at Penn Station and Grand Central Station.

In the interim, Governor Cuomo is taking action to restrict terrorists' capabilities and make it easier for New Yorkers to report suspicious activity. These actions will improve statewide security and strengthen counter terrorism policies, procedures, and tactics. the state will take additional actions to further secure the state. These include:

- **Expand vehicle rental regulations:** Governor Cuomo will put forward legislation to require any person attempting to rent a vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of more than 10,000 pounds to present a valid driver's license and an additional form of ID to the vehicle rental company in order to obtain the keys. This will ensure that individuals attempting to rent a vehicle actually are who they say they are and prevent any attempted deception to conceal a renter's identify for malicious purposes.
- **Launch a terrorism tip line:** Building off of the "See Something, Say Something" campaign, New York

will work with the Public Service Commission to establish a first of its kind three-digit tip line dedicated to reporting terrorist threats and suspicious activity. Rather than a longer 1-800 number, this three-digit line will be easy for New Yorkers to recall in the event they witness suspicious activity and encourage further reporting to prevent a potential terrorist act.

These actions will enable New York State to provide an effective deterrent to new methods of terrorist attack and enhance preparedness and response capabilities statewide. In the face of terror, New Yorkers remain resilient. These actions will only strengthen the resolve of the State's governments, businesses, and citizens making each stronger and more prepared in the event of a terrorist attack.

Proposal: Reduce Cyber Risk in New York State's Supply Chain

Since he took office, Governor Cuomo has made it a priority to protect New York from cyber adversaries who seek to steal our money and disrupt the way we live

and work. From creating new cyber security units in the New York State Police and the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services to developing the nation's first cyber regulations for banks and insurance companies, the Governor has worked hard to protect New York's citizens and organizations from increasingly sophisticated and disruptive cyber-attacks.

Among the Governor's greatest responsibilities is to protect information entrusted to State agencies. Some of the biggest risks in these agencies comes from their supply chain—those vendors and contractors that help New York deliver essential services to its citizens. Several recent prominent cyber breaches across the nation illustrate how weaknesses in a supplier can lead to a breach in the contracting organization, even if the two entities do not explicitly share sensitive data with each other.

To protect New Yorkers, the Governor is issuing an Executive Order directing State agencies to implement a strategy for reducing the supply chain risk. This strategy will ensure that the State's suppliers have

cyber protections in place that are comparable to the protections in State agencies. It will also require vendors to notify the State whenever they experience a cyber-incident, and include provisions so New York can ensure that vendors live up to their contractual requirements. The Governor's actions will help create a more secure and resilient State government, protect the sensitive information of millions of New Yorkers, and ensure vendors are better equipped to fend off the many cyber challenges that they face.

Proposal: Develop a School Safety Response System to Ensure First Responders Have Real-Time Access to the Blueprints of Every School in New York State

Governor Cuomo has led the charge to protect New Yorkers from gun violence and acts of terror. In the wake of the tragic shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2012, the Governor championed the toughest and smartest gun legislation in the nation, and he has pushed to strengthen security measures across the state. This year, for example, the Governor announced a $25 million grant program for critical hardening of

infrastructure for non-profits, non-public schools, day care centers, and cultural centers to increase security, and last year, the Governor provided $10 million to the State Police and local law enforcement agencies for equipment purchases to improve police officer safety and response capabilities.

Still, the threat of mass violence and shootings continues to plague the country. There were more than 330 mass shootings in the United States in 2017 alone,[84] and since the attack at Sandy Hook, there have been more than 260 school shootings nationwide.[85] As the federal government continuously fails to address this threat, New York must take the next step to protect our children and provide first responders with the most modern and sophisticated tools available for multi-agency coordination, resourcing, and response.

In the coming year, the State will explore new technology options for a school safety response system that may include real-time "blue team" GPS tracking and direct lines of communication for all response personnel. The State will also ensure that all schools in New York

State are mapped both internally and externally so first responders can enter with greater certainty about where they are going, where threats may exist, and where victims may be hiding. This information will enable them to operate around new and unfamiliar locations with certainty and speed to rapidly save as many lives as possible.

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