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April 3, 2020

FACING UNSUSTAINABLE STATE BUDGET, CSEA PRESIDENT SULLIVAN DEMANDS RELIEF FROM FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

ALBANY – At a time when they are needed more than ever, the head of New York’s largest public employees union is warning that the state’s public services are nearing a breaking point, and without additional federal relief, the recently enacted state budget will decimate services New Yorkers rely on.

“With New York at the epicenter of this public health crisis, and the need for public services in even greater demand, our state leaders were forced into passing a budget that promises serious pain for New Yorkers in the very near future,” CSEA President Mary E. Sullivan said. “New York is bleeding revenues and workers are facing massive unemployment on a scale never seen before. Without additional federal relief right now, the state will be forced into cutting essential services we all rely on.

We can’t afford to allow our public hospitals and nursing homes and facilities for the mentally ill and developmentally disabled to face cuts, while they are already struggling to provide needed care. We can’t afford to allow cuts in funding for first responders, sanitation workers, public health workers, or those helping people find jobs. Our child care providers and our school districts can’t afford cuts that will negatively impact our children. New York’s roads and bridges can’t afford cuts to their maintenance. Our local governments can’t afford Medicaid cuts to programs that help our most vulnerable citizens, and our SUNY campuses and our Court system cannot afford the cuts we could be facing. The pain would go on and on and impact every New Yorker.

Time is running out for New York’s public services. We need immediate help from our national leaders during this time of crisis. We demand our Federal representatives act NOW to protect all New Yorkers and secure appropriate funding for our state and localities so New York can make our way out of this devastating crisis.”