

March 15, 2012

Civil Service Employees Association Local 1000 Statement on Passage of Tier 6

“Tier 6 shoved down the throat of state legislators fixated on their own self-preservation, will be devastating to 99 percent of New Yorkers. This deal is about politicians standing with the 1 percent – the wealthiest New Yorkers – to give them a better break while telling nurses, bus drivers, teachers, secretaries, and laborers to put up and shut up.”

There are no immediate savings from the Cuomo Tier 6 plan. Potential savings over decades will only come at the expense of working people. While hard-pressed localities will see no relief in the short term from Tier 6, they will be affected by **loss of state services, downsizing and consolidation of vital facilities, along with other aid reductions and a further erosion of their middle class as workers get squeezed or have their jobs eliminated**. CSEA pointed out that facts had little bearing on the governor’s agenda.

CSEA criticized Governor Cuomo’s scorched earth pursuit of his political ambition for giving new meaning to the term “bully pulpit.”

“Regardless of the governor’s glib talking points, New Yorkers should understand that this deal did not result from meaningful debate and good judgment – it resulted from political expediency – and it will have harmful consequences to people and communities now and for a long time to come. No good will come from this.”

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FIX TIER 6

Who could have seen this coming?

- Downsizing of the public workforce
- Trouble recruiting and retaining employees
- A demoralized workforce

Tier 6 was passed 10 years ago today. It was a bad law then and remains a bad law today. **That is why the state budget must fix Tier 6.**

The Fix Tier 6 proposal would:

- Ensure that the heroes who kept our state running during COVID are not penalized because of the mandatory overtime required to provide essential services.
- Create vesting equity between tiers 5 and 6 with other tiers and the private sector.
- Equalize pension contribution rates for members of Tier 6 to encourage career advancement in the public sector.
- Eliminate the egregious reduction in benefits for employees who retire under Tier 6.

These proposals offer a cost-effective way to improve recruitment and retention within the state, local government, and school district workforces that are in desperate need of investments.

