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## **Important New York State Budget Update and Engagement**

Dear Members and Friends of the John Jay/CUNY Community:

**Time is critical.** We are in the final weeks of the state budget process and we need additional assistance. Please visit [www.supportcuny.org](http://www.supportcuny.org) via your personal computers to contact Albany lawmakers.

**State budget negotiations are ongoing in Albany.** The Senate and Assembly have formed budget conference committees to reconcile each one house bill passed this week and are establishing targets for additional funds that may be available for higher education and CUNY. We ask you to take action now and urge support of CUNY in the final state budget negotiations.

**Critical issues on the line.** The State of New York and New York City must resolve the funding shift of **\$485 million** proposed by the Governor without harm to CUNY students and faculty. In addition, CUNY is asking for full funding of the collective bargaining costs totaling over \$330 million. It is imperative that the University receive funding for the **collective bargaining costs** since CUNY faculty and staff have been without a contract since 2010. The University is also seeking a predictable tuition policy that will avoid large tuition increases in future years. It is also vitally important that CUNY receive funding for the maintenance, renovation and construction of facilities.

**A Higher Education Legislative Conference Committee is meeting.** Please advocate to New York State legislators **NOW**. Conference committees will soon prioritize budget decisions to be presented to the Governor within the next week given the April 1 budget deadline. There is a small window of opportunity to impact the process.

Please join your colleagues and friends by clicking on the letter below to send to Conference Committee members and your representatives in the State Legislature. Thank you for your continued help and support.

[2016 Budget Conference Committee Letter](#)