

Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 1:43 PM
To: 'griffo@nysenate.gov'; 'kinderma@nysenate.gov'
Cc: 'news@uticaod.com'; 'news@wktv.com'; 'comments@wktv.com'
Subject: Gov Cuomo's inclusion of policy in the budget is UNCONSTITUTIONAL -- "Griffo calls for 'bare-bones' NY budget" (Utica Observer Dispatch); "Griffo Urges Cuomo To Remove Controversial Items From The State Budget" (WKTV-News Channel2)
Attachments: 3-18-20-ltr-to-gov-revised-fn1.pdf; 8-21-13-ltr-to-gov.pdf

TO: Deputy Senate Minority Leader Joseph Griffo

This follows up my phone conversation, earlier this afternoon, with Deanna, at your district office (315-793-9072).

Your yesterday's public statement "'Bare-bones' state budget must be done", reported by the Utica Observer-Dispatch "Griffo calls for 'bare-bones' NY budget" and by WKTV-News Channel 2 "Griffo Urges Cuomo To Remove Controversial Items From The State Budget", urges Governor Cuomo to avoid a "budget laden with policy", calling it "irresponsible" during this coronavirus crisis.

Why have you NOT asserted that Governor Cuomo's policy-packed budget is UNCONSTITUTIONAL?

Did you not read CJA's above-attached March 18, 2020 letter to Governor Cuomo on that subject, entitled **"GOOD NEWS DURING THE CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY: You Can Chuck 6 of the 7 'Article VII Bills' Because They are Unconstitutional. Here's why..."**. It analyzes the Governor's "Article VII Bills" for FY2020-21 and does so in the context of the Court of Appeals' seminal 2004 decision in *Pataki v. Assembly/Silver v. Pataki*, 4 NY3d 75, providing what appears to be the FIRST scholarship deconstructing its plurality, concurring, and dissenting opinions.

As reflected by the below, I e-mailed the letter to you – and to your legislative director – twice last week, on March 18th and then, again, on March 20th.

Unless you deny or dispute the accuracy of the analysis contained therein, you already have the "bare-bones" state budget you purport to want.

Wouldn't the Senate and Assembly minority be more effective in protecting minority rights if they explained what the New York State Constitution says and insisted on adherence to its provisions?

Finally, and as I pointed out to Deanna, there is a further reason why CJA's March 18, 2020 letter should be of particular interest to you. Its sole enclosure – CJA's above-attached August 21, 2013 letter to Governor Cuomo entitled "Achieving...a Properly Functioning Legislature..." – discusses (at pp. 4-6) the 2009 Temporary Senate Committee on Rules and Administration Reform, three of whose nine members remain in the Senate: yourself, Senator Kevin Parker, and the Senate's now Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, who happens to be my own state senator.

I am available to assist you, to the max, in discharging the duty to which you swore, by your oath of office (Article XIII, §1), to uphold the New York State Constitution. Such benefits ALL the People of the State of New York. Please feel free to call me with any questions.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
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From: elena@judgewatch.org <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 4:00 PM
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Subject: Executive Budget ... CJA's March 18, 2020 letter to Gov. Cuomo: "GOOD NEWS DURING THE CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY: You Can Chuck 6 of the 7 'Article VII Bills' Because They are Unconstitutional. Here's why..."

MORE GOOD NEWS DURING THE CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY –

CJA's March 18, 2020 letter to Governor Cuomo "...GOOD NEWS DURING THE CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY", sent to you by the below March 18, 2020 e-mail, is now posted on CJA's website – on a webpage now reflecting the March 18, 2020 date. The direct link is here: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/2020-legislative/3-18-20-ltr-to-gov.htm>. According to the U.S. priority mail delivery receipt (there posted), the letter was delivered to the Governor's office this morning.

The letter, with a revised footnote 1 updating the link for the webpage, is attached. Additionally attached is the letter's single enclosure – CJA's August 21, 2013 letter to the Governor on "Achieving...a Properly Functioning Legislature..."

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

From: elena@judgewatch.org <elena@judgewatch.org>

Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 11:52 AM

To: 'records.access@exec.ny.gov' <records.access@exec.ny.gov>

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Subject: ...Executive Budget...GOOD NEWS DURING THE CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY: You Can Chuck 6 of the 7 "Article VII BILLS" Because They are Unconstitutional. Here's why....

TO: Governor Andrew Cuomo, Esq.

Budget Director Robert Mujica, Esq.

Legislative Bill Drafting Commission

15 Stipend-Benefitting Legislative Leaders

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Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie

Senate Minority Leader John Flanagan, Esq.

Assembly Minority Leader William Barclay, Esq.

Deputy Senate Majority Leader Michael Gianaris, Esq.

Deputy Senate Minority Leader Joseph Griffo

Assembly Majority Leader Crystal Peoples-Stokes

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Assembly Minority Leader *Pro Tempore* Andrew Goodell, Esq.

Senate Finance Committee Chair Liz Krueger

Senate Finance Committee Ranking Member James Seward

Assembly Ways and Means Committee Chair Helene Weinstein, Esq.

Assembly Ways and Means Ranking Member Edward Ra, Esq.

Assembly Codes Committee Chair Joseph Lentol, Esq.

Assembly Codes Committee Ranking Member Angelo Morinello, Esq.

Attached is my above-entitled letter of today's date to Governor Cuomo, the original of which will be mailed to him. All others are indicated recipients, for the reasons stated in the last paragraph (at p. 13).

Due to a catastrophic computer breakdown, on this end, I am presently unable to post the letter on CJA's website, www.judgewatch.org and to update the site. The webpage for the letter – which had been prepared two days ago, before the breakdown – is here – reflecting the letter's then March 16, 2020 date: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/2020-legislative/3-16-20-ltr-to-gov.htm>. From the webpage you can access the letter's referred to-documentary proof – and its sole enclosure: my August 21, 2013 letter to the Governor, entitled "Achieving BOTH a Properly Functioning Legislature & Your Public Trust Act (Program Bill #3) – the *Sine Qua Non* for 'Government Working' & 'Working for the People'", to which I received no response.

Thank you.

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