

## Koon: New Yorkers face tough economic times

For Immediate Release - January 7, 2009 :: Statement :: Koon: New Yorkers face tough economic times - Today Governor Paterson gave his first state of the state address. It is clear that we all have some difficult choices ahead of us amid a struggling economy and challenging future. New Yorkers will be forced to make certain sacrifices, and it is important that together we share the burden in these tough financial times.

There are several measures outlined in the state of the state address that represent a step in the right direction. Paterson announced that he would work to expand healthcare coverage to individuals up to the age of 29 by proposing a bill that would allow them to be covered under their family plan at their own cost. Individuals age 19-29 represent a large portion of the uninsured, and the governor's plan would tackle this issue.

In a step toward stimulating the upstate economy, the governor discussed the importance of continued commitment to the Upstate Revitalization Fund, and announced that transformational projects would be identified in upstate New York.

It is crucial that we address the deficit and work to cut spending, hold the line on taxes, and improve the quality of life for New York families. It is apparent we need to reduce spending in state government, and although all New Yorkers will all have to make certain financial sacrifices, we must take steps to ensure that the burden is not placed on the backs of local taxpayers by simply passing costs onto localities.

In a time when families are facing unprecedented hardships, it is imperative that we continue to push forward. Although budget cuts are necessary and we will all have adjust to some new changes, it is crucial that we continue to fight for accessible healthcare, quality education and job development in New York State. Contact: David Koon ALBANY OFFICE: Room 643 LOB, Albany, NY 12248 · (518) 455-5784 District Office: 268 Fairport Village Landing, Fairport, NY 14450 · (585) 223-9130 E-MAIL: koond@assembly.state.ny.us # # #