



## NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY

Assemblyman Rory Lancman, 25th District, Queens  
Press Release: August 26, 2008

# Legislature and Governor Find \$1 Billion in Budget Savings Without Cutting Core Programs for Middle Class New Yorkers

### Savings Set The Stage For Tough Choices In Next Year's Budget

Albany, NY— Governor David Paterson and the legislature agreed to \$1 billion in state budget savings today, including \$411 million for this year's budget and \$604 million for next year's budget, preserving core services to middle class New Yorkers and affirming the importance of properly funding education and health care as being in the long term interest of New York state. Assemblyman Rory Lancman (D-Queens) has been a leading voice in the three-week budget debate which started with Governor Paterson's July 29 announcement calling a special session of the legislature on August 19. Assemblyman Lancman's warnings against making rash and radical budget cuts to education and healthcare and his calls for tax fairness helped frame the debate (see [Albany Times Union Op-Ed](#); [Eyewitness News Up Close debate](#); [Capital Tonight debate](#)).

"As we look toward closing next year's budget shortfall, we need to focus first on budget savings that don't hurt middle class New Yorkers, like the \$3.1 billion New York spends on outside consulting firms; the hundreds of millions of dollars wasted on economic development programs that yield little in the way of jobs or economic growth; the tens of millions of dollars wasted on under-utilized prisons; the tens of millions of dollars we can save by purchasing prescription drugs more efficiently; the hundreds of millions of dollars a year we fail to collect in cigarette taxes from Indian reservations; and the billions of dollars in revenue available by raising the personal income tax on the very wealthiest New Yorkers by just one percent," said Lancman. "But cutting education and health care should be our last resort, not our first."

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