



June 27, 2018

Dear Members of the Senate and General Assembly,

On behalf of the Better Choices for New Jersey Coalition and concerned leaders across the state, we write to express our strong concerns for the budget that passed last Thursday, which falls nearly \$1 billion short of being able to support core state investments and programs. Failure to reach a compromise only hurts our communities and families, and therefore we urge you to consider the compromise proposal of the Governor and move a budget with sustainable revenue streams.

We share a desire to ensure New Jersey not only meets its existing obligations but also has the ability to implement the public policy goals that will make New Jersey a national leader on so many issues. From public education to mass transit, and including social programs middle-class and working families rely upon, we need a budget that won't fall short.

The funding sources passed last week, unfortunately, are neither. They do not meet the needs of the state in FY 2019, falling upwards of \$1 billion short of what our state needs. Further, it is dependent on temporary sources, set to expire in either one or two years, or incomplete actions, failing to incorporate necessary funding streams such as the millionaire's tax or common sense measures, such as combined reporting. The bottom line, we will be unable to fix the damage done by Governor Christie's budgets over the past eight years.

We have worked together on many of these solutions in the past, and we now urge you to revisit the following and make them part of the Fiscal Year 2019 budget:

- Re-implement tax fairness by asking the very wealthiest to pay their fair share by adopting a tax on millionaires so we can invest in public education;
- Reinstate the sales tax to generate the long-term revenues we need to ensure stability of core programs;
- Implement "combined reporting" to close the loophole enjoyed only by large corporations, ensuring they can no longer park their profits and their Trump windfalls in other states to get around paying New Jersey taxes;

These are the tools New Jersey needs to protect our middle-class and working families for the long term. They will ensure our future prosperity is shared fairly by every New Jerseyan.

There are only three days left until the constitutional budget deadline. **We ask you to encourage your leadership to work in good faith with Governor Murphy on a budget that will responsibly and fully invest in our shared future.**

Sincerely,

Better Choices Coalition for New Jersey

Better Choices for New Jersey is a diverse coalition, convened by New Jersey Working Families Alliance, that advocates on issues concerning the state budget and fiscal choices of the state. Our partners represent a broad a diverse set of interests, as our members include faith-based groups, labor organizations, and advocates in areas such as public education, the environment, social justice, poverty alleviation, housing, and much more.

32BJ, SEIU

Action Together New Jersey and 19 affiliate Chapters

AFSCME New Jersey

Amalgamated Transit Union, NJ State Council

Anti Poverty Network of New Jersey

ATU Local 819 Newark

ATU Local 820 Union City

ATU Local 821 Jersey City

ATU Local 822 Paterson

ATU Local 823 Elizabeth

ATU Local 824 Howell

ATU Local 825 Oradell

ATU Local 880 South Jersey

BlueWaveNJ

Clean Water Action

Council of NJ State College Locals - AFT

CWA District 1

CWA Local 1032

CWA Local 1037

CWA Local 1081

Environment New Jersey

Essex Rising

Food & Water Watch, New Jersey Chapter

Healthy Schools Now

Indivisible Congressional District 3

Indivisible Congressional District 5

Indivisible Cranbury

Indivisible Garden State

La Casa de Don Pedro

The Latin American Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc.

Laundry, Distribution & Food Service Joint Board, Workers United/SEIU

League of Conservation Voters

LUPE PAC

Lutheran Episcopal Advocacy Ministry NJ

Monmouth County Democrats Progressive Caucus

National Association of Social Workers, New Jersey

National Organization for Women, Northern New Jersey Chapter

New Jersey Citizen Action

New Jersey Communities United

New Jersey Education Association

New Jersey Industrial Union Council

New Jersey Organizing Project

New Jersey Policy Perspective
New Jersey Tenants Organization
New Jersey Work Environment Council
New Jersey Working Families Alliance
NJ BATS
NJ 11th For Change
Our Children/Our Schools
Our United Revolution New Jersey
Our Revolution Essex County
People Demanding Action, New Jersey Chapter
People's Organization for Progress

Progressive Democrats of America, New Jersey Chapter
Save Our Schools
Sierra Club, New Jersey Chapter
STAND Central NJ
Union of Rutgers Administrators, AFT Local 1766
V Rev. Peter Anthony Baktis, Mother of God Orthodox Church - Princeton
Westfield 20/20
Women for Progress