



December 8, 2017

Greetings--

My Thoughts on the U.S. Senate Tax Bill

Like many of you, I was disheartened to see the U.S. Senate pass a tax “reform” bill that will negatively impact millions of New Yorkers. This bill will raise our federal deficit, cause cuts to critical programs and shockingly raise the taxes of many middle class New Yorkers. This bill also will do great harm to the New York State budget. Our \$153 Billion state budget is comprised of over \$50 Billion of federal dollars which fund Medicaid, our schools, our roads, and other necessary programs.

This bill is a massive tax cut to large multinational corporations and the extremely wealthy and will be a harbinger for cuts to critical social welfare programs like Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security. In a time when our federal and state governments should be investing in our infrastructure and trying to close the income inequality gap that has grown much too large over the last 30 years, this bill will tie the hands of our federal and state governments and stop them from helping lift up and protect our most vulnerable and adequately invest in our communities.

In the initial analysis of the consequences of the bill that the Senate passed, the nonpartisan Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center say that the bill will actually raise taxes on 62% of middle income taxpayers by 2027. Additionally, their study estimates that on average, New Yorkers claim an average of \$21,038 in state and local taxes (SALT), on their federal returns. The elimination of the SALT deduction alone will cost New Yorkers on average, \$4,500 per year.

According a recent piece in the New York Times, this bill would cause home prices to plummet 10% or more in the New York Metro area and would increase the regional tax burden substantially. It will make it harder for state and local governments to pay for upgrades to the transit system and force cuts in important federal programs that help the elderly, low-income residents, and immigrants, and others who are already struggling to make ends meet.

This tax plan is the height of cynicism. Not only does it overwhelmingly favor the ultra-wealthy and large corporations, it seems uniquely targeted to hurt residents of New York, California and other urban states. No Congress or President should ever draft and pass legislation that is

uniquely written to help their most ardent supporters while at the same time punish those who are not seen as part of their political constituency. Politics of course plays a role in government, but no party should ever shirk its most fundamental responsibility which is to represent all of America, not just those citizens who the ruling party believes to be their political supporters.

Please reach out to your legislators, and speak to those who you know who are represented by someone who has not come out against this disastrous bill.

NYC Department of Finance Benefits for Seniors, Disabled & Veterans

My office will be partnering with the NYC Department of Finance for an event to assist seniors, veterans, and those with a disability to register for homeowner exemptions, rent freezes, and more. For full details, please see the program listing below. The date and time for the event will be announced shortly.



If you have any questions about any of these programs or need assistance in filling out any of the forms, please give my district office a call at (718) 788-7221 or respond to this email.

SCHE/DHE Senior Citizen/Disabled Homeowners Exemptions:

<http://www1.nyc.gov/site/finance/benefits/landlords-sche.page>

*****Thanks to recent changes in city and state law, now homeowners with an annual income of \$58,399 or less are now eligible to receive the Senior Citizen Homeowners' Exemption (SCHE) or the Disabled Homeowners' Exemption (DHE) through the New York City Department of Finance.**

-All owners must be at least age 65 or disabled unless they are married or siblings. In the case of marriage or siblings, only one owner must be at least age 65.

-Owners total combined income under \$58,399

-Available to all homeowners including co-ops and condos

-All owners must sign the application

-Deadline is March 15, 2018

SCRIE/DRIE Senior/Disabled Rent Freeze Program:

<http://www1.nyc.gov/site/rentfreeze/index.page>

-Age 62+ or 18+ and receiving disability compensation

-Living in a Rent Regulated Apt (Rent Stabilized, Rent Controlled, SROs)

-Applicant must be listed on the lease

-Household Income under \$50,000

-Paying at least 1/3 of the household income towards the rent

Enhanced STAR:

<http://www1.nyc.gov/site/finance/benefits/landlords-star.page>

-Owners must be at least age 65

-Income less than \$86,000

Veterans/Clergy Exemptions:

<http://www1.nyc.gov/site/finance/benefits/landlords-veterans.page>

<http://www1.nyc.gov/site/finance/benefits/landlords-clergy.page>

Help Someone in Need this Holiday Season

Toys for Tots w/Park Slope Civic Council:

Make sure no child goes without a present to open this Holiday season. My office is partnering with the Park Slope Civic Council to collect gifts for Toys for Tots. You can donate a new or very gently used unwrapped gift for children ages 12 and under at locations across the Slope,

including my district office. All toys collected are given to local organizations that work with families in need.

100 Suits for 100 Men:

I'm excited to announce that my office is a temporary collection location for the non-profit [100 Suits for 100 Men](#). This community program serves men and women in need of business attire for the job search process. 100 Suits for 100 Men seeks business attire in both men's and women's sizes from XS to 6X along with belts, briefcases, purses, ties and shoes.

Relief Drive for Victims of Hurricane Maria:

Our relief drive for victims of Hurricane Maria continues, so if you would like to contribute, we are still accepting baby wipes, diapers, water, batteries, and feminine hygiene products at my district office.

Donations for all of these efforts should be brought to my District Office in Park Slope, located at 416 7th Avenue (Between 13th & 14th Street) Monday – Friday from 9:30am-4:30pm.

Community Events – The Week Ahead

Community Board 14 Monthly Meeting

PS 249

18 Marlborough Road

Monday, December 11

7:30pm

Open to community members. The [CB 14](#) board meeting is typically scheduled on the second Monday of the month at different locations during the year.

72nd Precinct Community Council

Church of the Redeemer

4717 7th Avenue

Tuesday, December 12

7:30pm

Open to community members. The [72nd Precinct Community Council](#) meetings typically take place on the second Tuesday of each month.

Community Board 6 Monthly Meeting

Old First Reformed Church

729 Carroll Street, Upper Hall

Wednesday, December 13

6:30pm

Open to community members. The [CB 6](#) monthly meeting is typically scheduled on the third Wednesday and the location moves around during the year.

[Park Slope Civic Council 2018 Community Grants Application Process](#)

The Park Slope Civic Council is accepting applications for grants to be awarded to community groups for projects in the arts, education, youth programs, and civic improvement. Applications will be evaluated on their responsiveness to the needs of the community, its residents, and the merits of the program proposals. The Park Slope Civic Council contemplates making several grants.

The deadline for receipt of applications for this grant cycle is December 15, 2017.

[Click here for more details on the grant application to see if your group qualifies.](#)

See you around the neighborhood,

Bobby

P.S. [Many of you have filled out my survey about MTA funding ideas here, but if you have not, please do.](#) Additionally, I recently joined my colleague in government and home Councilmember, Brad Lander in launching a website called [SignalFail.com](#). The site documents how signal failures are disrupting New Yorkers' commutes, outlines a plan for how the MTA should implement communications-based train control (CBTC) & offers New Yorkers an opportunity to join the call to fix-the-signals.



#SIGNALFAIL

CALL ON GOVERNOR CUOMO
& THE MTA TO FIX THE SIGNALS

TAKE ACTION

WWW.SIGNALFAIL.COM

Please [sign the online petition](#), share it with friends & tweet about it on social media using #SignalFail #FixTheSignals #FixTheSubway.

Assemblymember Robert Carroll

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