



**EPP UPDATE**  
**November 29, 2016**



Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Late last night, Governor Cuomo returned the EPP bill to the New York State Assembly, without his approval, which means he vetoed the bill. I was on the phone with the Governor's staff until the midnight deadline, as was Mario Cilento, the head of the state AFL-CIO, on which I serve as vice president, and our lobbyists and the lobbyists of the AFL. This bill was one of 133 that reached the Governor's desk just before the Thanksgiving holiday, which meant that his staff had to go through all these bills by a midnight deadline last night. The Governor's staff, in looking at the complexities of this bill, raised concerns last night about potential costs to the State. We have submitted many memos and had many discussions on these issues, and they were resolved to the satisfaction of Mayor deBlasio, who supported the bill, as well as the New York State Assembly and Senate, where both Democrats and Republicans understood the issues and voted for the bill.

Simply put, the Governor's staff ran out of time to satisfy itself about the questions they raised and felt that because there were implications for the State budget, the issue should be addressed during the budget process. After many conversations and discussions last night, the Governor and his staff felt they had no choice but to veto the bill and, instead, include it in the upcoming budget.

There can be no doubt that the Governor's action is a disappointment to us all. Politics in Albany is always complicated and often difficult to understand. However, I do have good news to report: the Governor has indicated that he wants to work with us and to move forward on the issue. He believes this is best done in the process of putting together the state budget. He stated that:

"Recognizing the need to have safe, reliable school transportation, I pledge to engage with the Legislature in the coming months to work on a meaningful solution to address this issue in the context of the budget process".

The budget process begins in December. We have already heard from the Governor's office about their desire to work closely with us, and our allies in the state AFL-CIO, to get this done in the budget. We are planning meetings in Albany next week. We look forward to working closely with the Governor's office to work through their remaining questions.

I am confident that last night's development is but another bump in the road in our long march to fairness and equity. Thanks to our solidarity, most recently in sending over 5,000 letters to Governor Cuomo's office, we have come this far through many struggles. Together, we can take the last steps to make our dream, finally, a reality.

I will be in touch with you again soon as we move forward.

Fraternally,  
  
Michael Cordiello  
ATU Local 1181-1061  
President/Business Agent  
and the Executive Board