



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Dean G. Skelos

## Statement by Senate Republican Leader Dean Skelos

DEAN G. SKELOS December 2, 2009



To put this deficit reduction plan in the right perspective you have to look at why New York has a \$3.2 billion deficit – because the Democrats in the Senate and Assembly, with Governor Paterson, put together a budget that increased spending by more than \$12 billion.

They spent every dime of federal stimulus money when everyone knew the economy was in trouble; then they raised taxes and fees and spent even more.

The taxpayers want spending cut and we are doing that today. However, there was a better plan that cut spending even more than this bill. It was the plan Senate Republicans proposed over six weeks ago. Our spending cuts matched the Governor's dollar-for-dollar, and went even further by including \$2 billion in real cuts, with more than \$1.6 billion in recurring savings.

We proposed cutting Medicaid spending, freezing purchases of recreational lands, and cutting \$350 million in legislative additions to the budget. Unfortunately the Governor, the Speaker and other Democrats did not even want to consider them.

Senate Republicans were the first to announce our opposition to tax and fee hikes and mid-year school aid cuts that would hurt schools and property taxpayers. The final bill included neither tax hikes nor school aid cuts.

The bill that passed today is only a start, we face a much bigger deficit next year and we should pass a spending cap to address it now.

We heard the anger and frustration of the taxpayers – they want us to cut spending, they want us to reduce taxes, and we have to bring a new fiscal reality to Albany because the taxpayers have simply had enough.

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