



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

James L. Seward

## Budget Conference Committees Convene

JAMES L. SEWARD March 17, 2014

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**ALBANY, 03/17/14** -- State Senator James L. Seward (R/C/I – Oneonta) has been named to the education and higher education budget conference committees which held their first meetings today in Albany.

Regarding his education conference committee assignment Senator Seward said:

**"The senate budget resolution increases school aid by \$811.9 million from last year with a \$541 million restoration of the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) which has hurt our area schools. Eliminating the GEA has been a top priority for me, and, to date, the senate is the only legislative**

**branch to fully target this unfair hit on our area schools."**

Regarding his higher education conference committee assignment Senator Seward said:

**"Our SUNY schools and community colleges are the birthplace of our future leaders, and the driving force behind many local economies. The senate plan, which I endorse, will ensure an affordable, high-quality college education remains within reach for our young people without saddling them with a lifetime of debt. The senate plan also includes funding for vital needs like Harvest New York, childcare centers, and campus upgrades."**

The conference committees are made up of five senators and five assemblymen tasked with negotiating budget differences between the houses, in concert with the governor, to develop a final spending plan. The committees conduct open, public meetings which can be viewed on-line at [nysenate.gov](http://nysenate.gov).

**"Bipartisan conference committees have produced winning results in recent years, and I am confident this process can again deliver an on-time, balanced budget that meets real needs, while building on our recent efforts to hold the line on property taxes, and grow jobs,"** Seward concluded.