



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Patrick M. Gallivan

## Senator Gallivan Responds to the Governor's State of the State Address

JIM RANNEY January 12, 2021

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Senator Patrick M. Gallivan (R-C-I, Elma) issued the following statement:

"The governor's State of the State Address provided a reminder of the devastating impact the global COVID-19 pandemic has had on our state, its residents and businesses.

Unfortunately, we heard few specific details on how he will help New York recover.

The governor made clear that he is relying on the federal government to bail the state out of its \$15 billion budget deficit, the largest in state history. It is wrong to think Washington will rescue the state from its financial crisis. We need a comprehensive, multi-faceted plan to close the budget gap.

The governor also offered few details on how the state will assist thousands of small businesses forced to limit operations or close because of harsh COVID-19 restrictions. Many are in danger of closing their doors for good, leaving hard working New Yorkers without jobs.

I remain concerned about the governor's call to legalize adult-use marijuana because of the revenue it will potentially bring to NYS. Now, more than ever, public health and safety should be the priority in this discussion. We should not overlook the potential risks simply because it will provide a new revenue stream.

Finally, I am glad the governor talked about making broadband available to everyone, everywhere. It is imperative. We have heard this promise before from this governor, it is time to make this a reality once and for all.

The governor has indicated he will be rolling out a series of additional proposals in the near future. I call on him to ensure that they are for the benefit of all of us.