RPEA Retired Public Employees Association

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John J. McPadden, *President* Edward C. Farrell, *Executive Director*

Honorable John Flanagan
Senate Majority Leader
330 New York State Capitol
Albany, NY 122247

March 6, 2017
RE: Budget Resolution

Dear Senator Flanagan:

I am pleased to see that the Senate estimates that revenues for the 2017-2018 fiscal year will exceed those anticipated in the Executive Budget. As you prepare to pass your one house Budget Resolution, I want to follow up on issues which RPEA raised at the Joint Fiscal Committees Hearing on the Executive Budget, as well as certain other proposals which we hope you will include in your Budget Resolution.

Specifically, we urge you to:

- Reject the Governor's proposal to cut the existing Medicare Part B reimbursement for state retirees who participate in NYSHIP; and
- Reject the Governor's proposal to eliminate the Income Related Monthly Reimbursement Amount (IRMAA) reimbursement which is paid to certain state retirees in NYSHIP.

Additionally there is legislation which RPEA supports which have certain fiscal impacts, and we urge you to include them in the Budget Resolution. These are:

- Increase the Survivor's Benefit available through the Retirement System from $3,000 to $3,500 (S.2926 Golden)
- Assure that all NYSHIP Medicare charges are reimbursable, regardless of what Part of Medicare is utilized –i.e. Part D, Prescription Drugs are not totally reimbursed (S. 1612 Golden)
- Increase the amount (from $30,000 to $35,000) that retirees who return to public service can earn without a reduction in pension benefits (S.3576 Tedisco)
- Allow honorable discharged retirees to participate in the veterans supplemental pension benefits bill which was enacted last year. Retirees were inexcusably exluded from participating in that legislation.
- Authorize a retirement savings account for private sector employees (S.4344 Savino)

Thank you for your consideration, and RPEA remains available to answer any question on these issues.

Sincerely,

John McPadden
President

Cc: Senator Klein, Senator Young, Senator Golden, Senator Tedisco, Senator Savino