

WORKER JUSTICE AGENDA

Joint Statement: One-House Budget Priorities

As worker and advocacy organizations fighting on behalf of the most vulnerable workers in New York, we call on the Assembly and the Senate to meet the needs of essential workers in their one-house budget bills. We represent coalitions that seek economic justice and security for the people who make the New York economy and society run: home care workers, child care workers, warehouse workers, retail workers, delivery workers, immigrant workers, freelancers, de-incarcerated workers, among others.

We stand together to demand that New York provide a living and equitable minimum wage for all workers throughout the State; fair pay for workers who care for children or elderly or disabled New Yorkers; paid medical leave for workers who suffer illness or injuries outside the job; unemployment assistance for strikers, part-time workers, and misclassified workers, and for workers unjustly excluded from the federally-regulated unemployment insurance system; and tools for enforcement of labor standards that enhance the capacity of the Department of Labor to protect New Yorker's workers. The current exclusion of these workers from adequate protections – or any protections – inflicts great harm on the very people who keep our state going through thick and thin. These exclusions also undermine the bargaining power of all New Yorkers. When we leave some workers behind, we open the door to exploitation by the worst employers in our economy - dragging down labor standards for the rest of us. Addressing these exclusions will secure a better future for all of New York and help advance racial and gender equity in our state.

Unfortunately, Governor Hochul's Executive Budget fell short in meeting the needs of so many, so we are asking the Legislature to once again stand with us. We thank them for their leadership on these critical issues.

Our legislative priorities include:

- EmPIRE Worker Protection Act, *S541B (Hoylman-Sigal) / A9012 (Simon)*
- Upstate Parity & Minimum Wage Protection Act, *S8154 (Ramos, Webb) / A9093 (Bronson)*
- Warehouse Workers Injury Reduction Act, *S5081-B (Ramos) / A8907 (Bronson)*
- Paid Medical Leave, *S2821B (Ramos) / A4053B (Solages)*
- UI for Strikers, *S4402 (Kennedy) / A1443 (Wallace)*
- UI Scofflaw bill, *S8555 (Ramos) / A TBD (Bronson)*
- Unemployment Bridge Program, *S3192 (Ramos) / A4821 (Reyes)*
- Fair Pay for Home Care
- Empire State Campaign for Child Care, *\$1.2 billion investment to create a permanent child care wage equity fund*

We look forward to seeing these critical protections in the one-house budget bills.

