



# AFFORDABILITY AND COST OF LIVING PLAN

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# Affordability and Cost of Living Plan Main Points

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# Address High Prices of Essential Needs



## INFLATION RELIEF

Eliminate State Sales Tax on everyday items and increase take-home pay for workers



## REDUCE ENERGY COSTS

Require a cost-benefit analysis for climate goals and pensions and reduce New Yorkers' energy bills



## CUT TAXES ON FAMILIES

Reduce taxes on private pensions and eliminate sales taxes on cellphones

# Prevent Future Tax Increases



## LEGISLATIVE ROADBLOCK

Require a 2/3 vote of both houses to impose, increase, or extend any State tax



## PREVENT EXECUTIVE ACTIONS

Require legislative approval before State agencies impose, fees, surcharges, or taxes



# Reduce Government Spending



## SPENDING CAP

Implement a statutory State spending cap to keep annual increases down



## CUT REGULATIONS

Establish a division to review and make binding regulations for elimination of costly regulations driving up consumer costs



## REDUCE THE SIZE OF GOVERNMENT

Require periodic review of State agencies to determine whether a need exists for reform or abolition of such agency

# Increase Accessibility and Affordability of Child Care

## Cut Red Tape

Examine existing barriers to create more facilities and allow for extended day child care

## Regional Cost Model

Institute a Regional Cost factor for child care subsidies

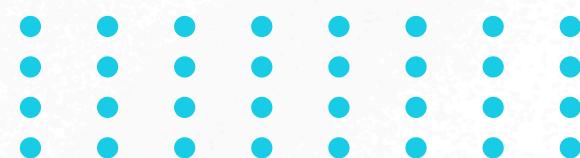
## Provide Tax Relief

Expand existing child care tax credits and create tax breaks for capital improvements to child care facilities



# HEALTH CARE

Free market solutions for cheaper and more accessible health care



Start the process of creating a Northeast Regional Health Insurance Compact to allow for the purchase of health insurance across State lines



Expand New York State of Health enrollment through tax returns



Establish New York Health Savings Accounts to expand purchasing private health insurance



Expand the New York State of Health Navigator Program, and allow first-time enrollees to buy insurance at any time



# Related Legislation



## **Address High Prices of Essential Needs**

- **Inflation Relief & Consumer Assistance Plan**: Eliminate sales tax on dozens of everyday items for two years, including (but not limited to) gasoline, personal care products, housekeeping supplies, and prepared foods ([A.7417, Barclay](#)).
- **Earned Income Tax Credit Expansion**: Expand the New York State value of the Earned Income Tax Credit from 30 percent to 45 percent of the federal amount ([A.5661, Barclay](#)).
- **Offer the Earned Income Tax Credit in Monthly Installments**: Offer the State EITC as installment payments instead of a lump sum when filing income taxes ([A.6013 of 2024, Maher](#)).
- **Cost-Benefit Analysis**: Direct the Public Service Commission (PSC) to commission a full and complete cost-benefit analysis of renewable energy goals based on Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) mandates. The study will be undertaken by an independent third-party contractor to help ensure a neutral perspective ([A.6260, Palmesano](#)).
- **“Ratepayer Disclosure and Transparency Act”**: Require annual reporting on State-mandated energy programs ([A.6152, Palmesano](#)).
- **Reduce Energy Assessment**: Reduce the amount a utility can be assessed, for costs and expenses of the Department of Public Service and the Public Service Commission, from one percent to one-third of one percent ([A.7429, Hawley](#)).
- **Mobile Tax Freedom Act**: Eliminate the State sales, compensating use, and excise taxes on mobile telecommunications services. Also, authorize local governments to eliminate their sales and compensating use taxes on mobile telecommunications ([A.9204, Barclay](#)).
- **Private Pension Taxes**: Make the first \$100,000 of a private pension non-taxable ([A.5235 of 2024, Barclay](#)).



## **Address High Prices of Essential Needs (continued)**

- Eliminate Taxes on Overtime: Subtracts from federal adjusted gross income any overtime compensation earned by an individual; defines overtime compensation ([A.8965, DeStfano](#)).
- Eliminate Taxes on Tips: Establishes an income tax deduction for cash tips received which are considered wages or compensation ([A.5856, Durso](#)).

## **Prevent Future Tax Increases**

- Legislative Requirement for Tax Increases: Constitutional Amendment to require a 2/3 majority vote of both the Assembly and the Senate to increase, impose, or extend any State tax ([A.6357, Palmesano](#)).
- Legislative Approval for Fees, Surcharges, or Taxes: Prohibit State departments, offices, agencies, and authorities from imposing any fees, surcharges, or taxes that have not been approved by the State Legislature ([A.295, Friend](#)).

## **Reduce Government Spending**

- State Spending Cap: Cap State spending to the average rate of inflation of the three previous calendar years and increase the maximum capacity of the rainy day fund ([A.7530, Barclay](#)).
- Division of Regulatory Review and Economic Growth (D-RREG): Establish a division, led by a commissioner who has a fixed term, to review and make binding recommendations for the elimination of burdensome regulations ([A.5582, Barclay](#)).
- Legislative Sunset Advisory Commission: Establish the Legislative Sunset Advisory Commission to review each State agency on a 10-year basis to determine whether a need exists for the continuation or reformation of such agency ([A.4464, Barclay](#)).

## **Increase Accessibility and Affordability of Child Care**

- **Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit**: Increase the State allowance of qualified expenses by 15% ([A.2314, Ra](#)).
- **Empire State Child Credit**: Increase State tax credit amount to 45% of Federal Child Tax Credit amount ([A.2492, Ra](#)).
- **Child Care Creation & Expansion Tax Credit**: Double existing State credit amount from \$25 million per year to \$50 million per year ([A.2393, Ra](#)).
- **Child Care Facility Capital Improvement Tax Credit**: Create a new State credit to help child care providers enhance and update facilities ([A.2392, Ra](#)).
- **Regional Cost Approach**: Institute a regional cost factor for child care subsidies by regions across the State and increase percentage of household income eligibility ([A.2373, Gandolfo](#)).
- **Examining Barriers**: Conduct a new study to examine existing State barriers which prevent new creation of providers ([A.2042, Maher](#)).
- **Extended Day**: Create rules and regulations that would establish a model for child care providers that would include nights and weekends ([A.4534, Jensen](#)).



## Make Health Care More Affordable and Accessible

- **Northeast Regional Health Insurance Compact**: Direct the governor to convene a Northeast Regional Health Insurance Compact Summit with surrounding states, to discuss the feasibility of creating a Regional Health Insurance Collaborative that allows residents of participating states to purchase qualified health insurance plans offered in any member state ([A.9254, Slater](#)).
- **Enhance Outreach**: Increase grants to health marketplace navigators in areas of the State with uninsured rates among low-income individuals that are higher than the State average ([A.4545, Jensen](#)).
- **Ease Enrollment**: Create a program within the Department of Health, and allow for expanded special enrollment periods for first-time enrollees and individuals enrolling through the tax filing program ([A.4545, Jensen](#)).
- **Reduce Costs**: Create a Health Benefit and Cost Commission to review proposed mandated health benefits that may impact the cost of health insurance coverage, and require legislation proposing a mandated health benefit to include a cost impact statement ([A.4545, Jensen](#)).
- **Increase Savings**: Create a New York State Healthcare Savings Program allowing New Yorkers to save money in a tax advantaged account to use for qualified healthcare expenses ([A.4545, Jensen](#)).
- **Medicaid Network Access Protection Act**: Ensure Medicaid spending results in real access to medical care by increasing transparency in Medicaid managed care network adequacy reviews and safeguarding continuity of care in light of recent major provider network withdrawals ([A.9312, Slater](#))