



# NEWS

New York State  
Public Employees Federation  
AFL-CIO

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## PEF joins hundreds at “Better Budget” rally

**Albany**-Members of the New York State Public Employees Federation (PEF) carried signs that read “We’re All In This Together,” as they listened to speeches from groups concerned about how the state intends to close a growing multi-billion dollar budget gap.

PEF President Ken Brynien reminded hundreds of education, public service, health care workers, community groups and religious leaders gathered at a rally on the west steps of the Capitol that the state’s fiscal problems are the result of corporate greed, recklessness and corporate New York’s failure to pay their fair share of taxes.

“The wealthiest New Yorkers only pay about 6 percent of their income in state and local taxes, while the rest of us pay 12 percent,” Brynien said. “There has been too much focus on state spending when we should be focused on the revenue that has been lost.”

The state implemented tax cuts over the last 20 years primarily for the wealthy and big corporations which this year alone amounts to \$16 billion in lost revenue.

“The state work force has already shared the pain of closing this budget gap with the 10 percent cuts to state agencies,” Brynien said. “Our members are doing more with less. The state already implemented \$1.6 billion in cuts with \$1.2 billion at the expense of the state work force.”

PEF has already submitted proposals to the governor and Legislature that have the potential of reducing the budget deficit by as much as \$10 billion without severe cuts to programs and services. PEF’s proposals include, using the \$1 billion rainy day fund, increasing the income taxes on wealthy New Yorker’s, closing corporate tax loopholes, and reducing the state’s reliance on costly private contractors.

“We can no longer allow middle and low income workers and their children to bear the brunt of spending cuts while corporate New York and wealthy New Yorkers are not asked to make any sacrifices,” Brynien said.

PEF is New York’s second-largest state-employee union, representing 59,000 professional, scientific and technical employees. For more information, please call, Darcy Wells, Director of Public Relations at (518) 785-1900 ext. 274 or (518) 859-1274.