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## Governor Cuomo Lays Out His 2020 State of the State Agenda – Including the Expansion of Workforce Development

### Highlights

Governor Andrew Cuomo kicked off the 2020 Legislative Session by delivering his 10th State of the State address at the Empire State Plaza on January 8th. The Governor's agenda featured a forward list of proposals, some aimed at enhancing workforce training and development in the State of New York.

We were satisfied to hear the Governor's plan to expand New York's \$175 million workforce development initiative to meet emerging careers. This would include investing \$14 million in apprenticeship expansion across the state. The additional funding would help New York employers find the skilled workforce they need to compete in today's global economy.

Another highlight was the Governor's support for creating an education and workforce training center focused on science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics (STEAM). It would house the state's first regional STEAM high school in the City of Syracuse, providing students throughout our region with instruction in advanced technology skills to better prepare them for an ever-changing workforce. The proposed STEAM school was part of Mayor Ben Walsh's Syracuse Surge initiative and Onondaga County Executive Ryan McMahon's agenda to bring more innovation and economic development to the city and county. Assemblyman William Magnarelli and Senator Rachel May sponsored the legislation that passed in the State Legislature last year.

In addition to workforce development, we also were pleased to hear of the Governor's plan to reduce the corporate tax

rate for certain small businesses from 6.5 percent to 4.0 percent, and his push to make the "New York Buy American" Act, which is set to expire in April, permanent.

### Challenges

Of course, certain proposals from the 2020 State of the State Agenda are raising concern for some of our manufacturing companies. We will continue to track the Governor's plan to prohibit the distribution and use of Styrofoam, single use food containers. We also will study the potential effects and unintended consequences of the Governor's proposed mandatory paid sick leave program. We certainly understand how the proposed legalization of marijuana could create serious complications for businesses, especially manufacturing companies that operate heavy equipment, so we will continue to express concern over the renewed effort for adult cannabis in New York.

### What's next?

Now that Governor Cuomo has laid out his agenda and priorities for the new year, state legislators will consider and negotiate these proposals, public hearings will be held, and both houses will work to pass their own one-house budgets. A new State budget will be due by the April 1st deadline. The 2020 Legislative Session is scheduled to end earlier this year – on June 2nd.

If you have any questions or comments about any of the proposals part of the Governor's 2020 State of the State Agenda, please call me at 315-474-4201 ext. 13 or e-mail at [tiffanylatinog@macny.org](mailto:tiffanylatinog@macny.org).