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Joint Legislative Hearings and the State Budget Process

Earlier this year, Governor Andrew Cuomo presented his FY 2021 Executive Budget. Among many actions, he outlined a plan to restructure the state's Medicaid program, an announcement that came as the state faces a looming deficit of more than \$6 billion – linked to a rise in Medicaid costs. While we understand the current budget restraints the state is facing, we are still optimistic that the State Legislature will find funding to support our Manufacturers Intermediary Apprenticeship Program (MIAP). We also are confident our tax parity bill, which would extend a zero percent income tax rate to small and medium sized manufacturers statewide, can gain momentum.

After the Governor announced his budget proposals, Joint Legislative Hearings took place in Albany throughout the month of February to give the public an opportunity to testify on major state issues, including economic development and workforce development. On February 5th, before the Joint Legislative Hearing on Workforce Development, Martha Ponge, MACNY's Director of Apprenticeship, testified about MIAP's high return on investment. Then on February 13th, before the Economic Development Hearing, MACNY President & CEO Randy Wolken testified about the vital importance of tax parity for all manufacturers in New York State.

A State Budget deadline of April 1st is quickly approaching. Therefore, the Senate and Assembly will spend this time working toward passing their own one-house budgets by considering the public's testimony and the Executive Budget. Next, Senate/Assembly Joint Conference Committee Hearings will take place so that legislators can debate different spending and revenue priorities and negotiate any possible amendments to the Executive Budget. Under budget reform legislation passed in 2007, the State Legislature is required to use a conference committee process between both houses to reach an agreement. Ultimately, a final State Budget will be debated and passed.

As the budget process unfolds, and the 2020 Legislative Session continues, we will continue to keep you up to date on our efforts to support and advocate for the hardworking men and women who keep our manufacturing industry running strong.

We also will be walking the halls of the Capitol Building and Legislative Office Building in Albany for our annual Manufacturing Lobby Day on March 3, 2020. We will be meeting with key state legislators, lending our collective voice to the many important issues that relate to the state's manufacturing community.