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Finalizing the State Budget: Joint Legislative Hearings Taking Place

Over the past month Joint Legislative Budget Hearings have been taking place virtually, so the public can testify on major state issues to include education, economic development, and workforce development. MACNY President and CEO Randy Wolken testified before the Economic Development Hearing. In addition, MACNY Director of Apprenticeship Martha Ponge presented strong testimony before the Workforce Development Hearing panel, requesting that \$750,000 in state funding be restored for the Manufacturers Intermediary Apprenticeship Program (MIAP) and included in the final FY2022 state budget.

With the growing employment challenges that MACNY anticipates as we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, it is imperative that MIAP be sustained and expanded statewide. We are hopeful that with the Legislature's continued support, we can grow the program and impact hundreds of more lives.

As the state budget deadline of April 1 approaches, the Senate and Assembly will continue to work toward passing their one-house budgets by considering the public's testimony and the Executive Budget. Senate/Assembly Joint Conference Committee Hearings will then take place so that legislators can debate different spending and revenue priorities and negotiate amendments to the Executive Budget. Ultimately, a final State Budget will be debated and passed.

We will continue to keep you up to date on our efforts to support New York's manufacturing industry. Though our annual Manufacturing Advocacy Day will look much different this year, we still hold legislative meetings with key state legislators. Instead of in-person meetings, we will be stating our case remotely.

We were pleased to bring several of our legislators together at MACNY's first-ever Legislative Planning Webinar in January, which replaced our Legislative Breakfast. Some of our speakers included New York Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul, New York Labor Commissioner Roberta Reardon, State Senator Anna Kaplan, and State Assemblyman Harry Bronson. We also have been putting our members in touch with their state representatives through weekly legislative webinars.

If there is a legislative issue you would like to bring to MACNY's attention, please contact me at tiffanylatinog@macny.org.