

**BTF RESPONDS TO HOYT CALL FOR  
TEACHERS TO FREEZE WAGES**

BTF President, Philip Rumore, today responded to Assemblyman Hoyt's call for teachers to freeze wages to prevent cuts.

“For Hoyt who is making \$95,000 per year plus \$171 per day, while in Albany (for doing nothing), to suggest that Buffalo teachers, who had their salaries frozen for three years, have been without a new contract for five years, have salaries that are among the lowest in Erie County and who work under the most difficult conditions, to again freeze their salaries, shows once again what a publicity-seeking, pathetic excuse for a human being. He doesn't care who he hurts as long as he sees his name in the media.”

Rumore also noted that Hoyt had only singled out teachers.

Asked what alternatives Rumore would suggest, he made the following suggestions:

- Instead of NYS rebating 100% of the “transfer tax” on stock transactions as is done currently, rebate 80%. This will generate \$3.2 billion per year in revenue. The transfer tax is a tax on the transfer of shares of stocks. “I wish N.Y.S. would rebate 100% of my taxes” Rumore commented.
- A family making \$45,000 per year pays the same N.Y.S. tax rate as a family making \$4.5 million and a middle income (\$27 - \$44,000) family pays 11.6% tax rate after the Federal offset while the richest 1% with an average income of \$1.6 million pay only 6.5% after the Federal offset.

Therefore, those like the millionaires on Wall Street who have benefited during these hard times, the rich, should be willing to at least approach the percentage of income tax we are paying. A mere 1% increase will generate billions in revenue.

- Closing loopholes that allow large, profitable corporations to avoid paying their fair share of state taxes.
- Reducing the amount of state work that is contracted out to high-priced, for-profit consultants who are being overpaid to do work that state workers can do better for less.
- Lowering prescription drug prices for state and local governments and New York consumers by using New York's purchasing power to negotiate fair deals with the drug companies.
- Ensuring that Reservation sales of cigarettes to non-Native Americans are properly taxed (by collecting those taxes before the products reach the reservations while still providing Native Americans with tax-free cigarettes).
- Using the Tax Stabilization Reserve fund (TSRF) to cover the Governor's anticipated gap in this year's budget rather than rolling it over to 2010-11. The TSRF is specifically for such end-of-year shortfalls.

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