

# NASW-NYS Political Post

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**Finish Line** - With the final days of the 2008 legislative session quickly closing in, Advocates / Lobbyists (including your Policy Team) have seen little else but the inside walls of the Capitol where final attempts to move legislation have felt like a roller coaster ride at Six Flags. On a positive note, the language bill securing funding for years two and three of the Chapter's Veterans Mental Health Training Initiative passed both houses and will soon be sent to the Governor. On a negative note...our workers compensation bill has been laid to rest (until next session) with more than 15,000 other pieces of legislation. And on a more ambiguous note...the amendment to Timothy's Law mandating expanded insurance coverage of treatment for PTSD has (surprisingly) hit a snag in the Assembly in spite of its 96 co-sponsors! However, there are still a number of days (2 -ish) left of session and your doggedly determined Policy Team has not yet given up.

**File Under FUN!** In an effort to assist citizens in understanding how policy priorities are played out in our federal budget process, American Public Media has developed an online game called Budget Hero. To check it out simply log onto the following website [http://marketplace.publicradio.org/features/budget\\_hero/](http://marketplace.publicradio.org/features/budget_hero/) Have Fun!

**A Day at the Circus** - What do you call a building with legislators, lobbyists, hundreds of horn blowing truckers, 250 Evangelical protesters, and at least a hundred fourth graders? Why, the Capitol of course! Amidst the usual chaos yesterday, hundreds of truckers converged upon the perimeter of the capitol to protest sky rocketing gas prices, Christian ministers came to "Blast Gov. David Paterson for requiring state agencies to recognize same-sex marriages," and hundreds of rambunctious fourth graders showed up for their annual tour. Oh, and let us not forget to mention a couple of female lobbyists (who shall remain nameless) who, in a protest of the Evangelical protesters walked through a line of 250 sign bearing ministers holding hands...what a day indeed.

**Campaign Chatter** - In a somewhat controversial move, presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, Senator Barack Obama rejected the notion of public campaign financing earlier this week (full story on [www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com)), while his Republican opponent, Senator John McCain painted a picture of Obama as "naive on foreign policy, weak on national security and, soft on terrorism." For the full article see [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com).