

**NASW-NYS Political Post**  
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**Karin Moran, MSW**

**Grand Slam** – As you are aware, NASW NYS and NYC have worked on behalf of the membership over the last two years (with a number of partners) to secure passage of legislation to resolve the corporate practice and O agency exemption issues related to the practice of social work. Finally, there is reason to celebrate, as the Governor has indeed signed the legislative measures into law. While we have indeed achieved a number of results in relation to membership concerns, we recognize there are a number of outstanding issues members have brought to our attention and as such we are currently working with the State Education Department (SED) to...reduce the number of contact hours required for the LCSW, provide for the perspective review of acceptable work settings for LMSW's working toward their LCSW, reduce the number of required supervisory hours and provide additional flexibility in the delivery of supervision, and broaden the definition of acceptable settings.

**Sweet Spot** – Passage of the state budget may be just around the corner as legislators are said to be closely examining potential areas of revenue raisers via additional tax increases. Reports as recent as this morning are suggesting each of the houses may remain in town all weekend to finalize the state's 2010-2011 budget, now more than ten weeks late. Earlier in the week, the legislature passed a budget extender that included a huge cigarette tax increase (\$1.60 per pack), a move that is estimated to have a potential yield of approximately \$400,000 million. Another tax increase proposal said to be on the table is lifting the state sales tax exemption on articles of clothing under \$110, a measure that is said to be worth \$300,000 million in revenue this year and \$600,000 million next year. Potential support for the measure or any additional tax increases seem to be (surprisingly) along party lines as Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver has reported that "a number of options are being discussed..." while Senate Minority Leader Dean Skelos noted to the NY Post that "Senate Republicans would not vote for a 2010-2011 spending plan that included tax hikes, even if that risks a government shutdown." "Taxpayers better watch their wallets," Skelos said. "Just like last year, the taxpayer's burden is only growing larger."

**Love?** – CNN hired ex-Governor Eliot Spitzer to co-host a syndicated talk show during prime time. The move has raised a lot of eyebrows both in and outside of the industry but whether it scores with viewers has yet to be determined.

