

# NASW-NYS Political Post

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**Capitol Tidbits** - “Enough is enough” said Governor David Paterson on Tuesday morning in response to and support of a report released by the New York State Commission on Property Tax Relief Tuesday morning. As a follow-up, the governor is expected to send the legislature a program bill calling for a tax cap seeking to limit local property tax increases to four percent or 120 percent of the Consumer Price Index. In response to the Legislature’s expected reception of such a bill, Governor Paterson had this to say... “We can pass the bill before the end of the session...if we don’t, that won’t be a source of acrimony...but I’m willing to call the Legislature back after the end of session to get it done...the legislative process is delayed because of ideological differences...I’m not going to tolerate inaction. We can’t just go home and pretend it doesn’t exist or refinance it. I suggest that we have to come back and revisit this issue.” The governor also made news with his recent directive to state agencies mandating they recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states or countries. Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno (R- Brunswick) accused the governor of making “an end run” around the Legislature in issuing such a directive. In addition, a group of legislators and conservative organizations have banded together to sue the governor over the initiative.

**End of Session Push** - Your NASW-NYS Policy Staff are again living at the Capitol working a number of issues as the final days of session dwindle; primarily, an initiative to add extended coverage of PTSD to New York’s mental health parity statute, also known as Timothy’s Law. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated. Please call your legislator with the following message... “As your constituent and a supporter of the Timothy’s Law Campaign, I urge you to pass A.10078 - Rivera / S.6818 - Morahan...*an act that seeks to add extended coverage of treatment for PTSD to Timothy’s Law* before the close of the 2008 regular legislative session!”

**Campaign Chatter** - Senator Barack Obama secured enough delegates Tuesday to become the nation’s first black presidential candidate on the Democratic ticket and while Senator Clinton (as of press time) had not officially conceded the race, chatter started to swirl around her willingness for the VP slot.