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Wouldn't it be Nice – to read a report from me stating the social work licensure bills are done? Well, I'm sorry to say, this isn't that report as we remain in a holding pattern. As I reported last week, the bill resolving our corporate practice issue and an extension of the exemption has passed each of the two houses, however, the Governor's office, the four impacted state agencies and a number of our colleagues wish to tweak the language by way of chapter amendments. We continue to engage all key stakeholders on the issue and will keep you posted on all the latest news.

Be Here in the Morning – Still no budget to report on; however the Assembly pulled an all-nighter in an attempt to resolve the race to the top issue by passing a bill (91-43) to raise the state's cap on charter schools from 200 to 460 over the next four years. The initiative, if passed by the Senate as well, will lend a huge boost to the state's chances of receiving an additional \$700 million in federal school funding. The Senate is expected to take the matter up this afternoon. The Assembly also passed an initiative expected to keep parks open through the summer.

Fun, Fun, Fun – Democrat's held their convention in Rye Brook NY this week, during which time, they officially nominated current Attorney General, Andrew Cuomo to run for Governor and though, at this point, he seems the heir apparent, he came out swinging...against those currently holding court in Albany. Cuomo called the government "broken and deaf to the needs of its residents." He went on to say "New York State is in crisis, and it's time this Democratic Party stood up and made this state the Empire State again." State Republican Party Chair, Ed Cox responded to Cuomo's speech by saying... "The gridlock in Albany is the gridlock of his own party. The Republicans aren't involved in that at all. The Democrats control everything in Albany."

I Just Got My Pay – Governor Paterson's directive to furlough state workers one day per week was not upheld by the US District Court earlier this morning. Paterson blasted the decision and went so far as to call the state's workforce "soft." He went on to say he was irked by the union's unwillingness to compromise, stating "That's what a recession is. I think this generation has become so soft that if anybody begrudged anything for any short period of time, it is as if it's cataclysmic. We're living on the same planet that 35 years ago the city of New York nearly went bankrupt and the state of New York suffered severely because of that, and we're only 80 years out from a Great Depression. You look at those newsreels; those people would have given anything to be in a position where they lost eight days over the period of an entire year. I'm just saying that nobody wants to do this, and I'm not saying this isn't pain....but they closed the schools in California. What happened to the workforce there?"