

**NASW-NYS Political Post**  
**January 29, 2010**  
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**Baby its Cold Out There** – Governor Paterson’s latest remarks about his legislative colleagues certainly aren’t giving anyone the warm and fuzzies! In his weekly radio address, the governor said “The short story is this: in the last few days, I have heard legislators and legislative leaders object to the cuts to SUNY, cuts to education, the cuts to health care, the fact that we, unfortunately, have to take back some of our increases for those who are on social services, those who are on welfare—we’re going to have to cancel that—and the summer jobs program, which hasn’t existed for 14 years, we brought it back in the summer of 2009, we can’t afford to do it in 2010. So they’ve run up about \$6 billion worth of complaints about the deficit and have not offered a dime. They also don’t like the sugar tax and the cigarette tax, which would be dedicated specifically to health care, which is eating up \$15.5 billion of our budget every year. But yet, you don’t hear any way of how we’re supposed to balance the budget. If you remember, the legislature left Albany and didn’t balance the budget. We went broke.” Get the feeling he’s a wee bit frustrated?

**A Winter’s Tale** – Though we’ve only just begun 2010 and are still in the dead of the winter, the election cycle certainly seems to be heating up. As reported last week, New York’s junior Senator, Kirsten Gillibrand is fending off a possible attack by former Tennessee Congressman Harold Ford Jr. Their latest back and forth involves an innocent feathered friend. Seems Ford likened the Senator to a parakeet (apparently in reference to her political positions thus far). Gillibrand, however, met the “accusation” head on in an interview with the Albany Times Union ... “I don't know who he thinks I am, but I'm certainly not going to be pushed aside by him and a few of his banker buddies. I wouldn't accept that kind of name-calling from my 6-year-old son, let alone someone who aspires to be a U.S. senator.” Gillibrand went on to say that Ford's "ridiculous attack” has little bearing on her; however, it affects New York – “because he's been unwilling to talk about issues. We have the highest unemployment we've seen in our lifetime, and this requires serious issues and serious debate, and this is a person who's clearly shown he is not serious because he devolves only to name-calling.” So take that!

**Cold as Ice** – NYC Mayor Bloomberg has not warmed to the Governors budget proposal. While addressing members of the Senate Finance and Assembly Ways and Means Committee earlier this week, Bloomberg noted “there would be thousands of layoffs of teachers and a lot fewer police on the streets” if the proposed cuts were to be enacted. Bloomberg went on to say “The people of New York are counting on you in the Legislature to help create a budget that is both responsible and equitable.”