

## **NASW-NYS Political Post**

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**Risin' up, back on the street** – Embattled Governor Paterson gave his second State of the State Address on Wednesday and in doing so, came out swinging. Instead of spending the first twenty minutes in front of the legislature bestowing accolades on attending dignitaries as is customary, he instead suggested he "dispense with the flourishes and formalities in order to address legislators as fellow citizens of this great state -- all equal under the eyes of God, all responsible for the people of the state of New York." This was merely an opening salvo as he went on to take on every facet of our political and legislative system, promising to battle Albany's culture of "spending, power and approval." No one in the room was left unscathed...Legislators were admonished for their spending habits, lobbyists and special interests for their "badgering and intimidating" and even good government groups for what he referred to as their "sanctimonious" tactics of hiding political donations while calling for campaign finance reform. To read the full text of the Governor Paterson's State of the State Address simply log onto <http://blog.timesunion.com/capitol/archives/21278/patersons-2010-state-of-the-state/> In between the sharp rhetoric, the Governor called for Fiscal reform via spending caps and consolidation of services, ethics reform, and economic development through investing in new technology, shifting from the Empire Zone program to the Excelsior Jobs Program and fortifying small businesses with revolving loans.

**Did my time, took my chances** – Paterson also called for term limits! Such a suggestion was of course met with a cool reception and has as much chance at becoming a reality as a snowball in H.E. Double Hockey sticks as it would require legislative approval but hey, everyone goes off sides occasionally.

**Went the distance, now I'm back on my feet** – Though his first bid for Governor back in 2002 was unsuccessful, Attorney General Andrew Cuomo appeared to be the big draw on Wednesdays round of State of the State after parties. The crowd was elbow to elbow in the west wing of the second floor and the buzz regarding his future plans was indeed palpable. To view an onsite interview (and perhaps a glimpse of your favorite lobbyists), log onto <http://blog.timesunion.com/capitol/archives/21302/its-cuomos-party/>

**Just a man and his will to survive** – Some legislators suggested the Governor is using them as a "scapegoat" in order to build his poll numbers while others applauded his address as "on target." For a review of legislative responses, log onto <http://blog.timesunion.com/capitol/archives/21287/the-gauntlets-been-thrown/>