

# The New Deal for CUNY

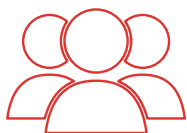
Bill A5843/S4461

#SupportOurNeedsNY



## Support Basic Needs for College Students

- The pandemic has created new societal changes, including social, mental and economic hardships affecting CUNY and SUNY students.
- The changes include higher college costs, mental health difficulties, more financial hardship amongst many low and moderate-income families, declining per capita college resources, and difficulties finding access to programs and resources to help serve their needs.



## Who is Being Affected and How?

- Students of color who come from low-income families or poverty are more likely to experience basic needs insecurity than their white peers.
- Students who struggle to make ends meet and live paycheck-to-paycheck, trying to pay expenses for tuition and other non-related tuition costs, such as housing, food and insurance.
- Students being forced to prioritize which of their basic needs should be the main focus, creating distress.



## Background Information and Statistics

- According to a report, by Active Minds Student Mental Health (2020),
  - Out of **2,051 CUNY students** surveyed, almost **75%** of reported that their mental health has worsened since the start of the COVID-19 Pandemic due to lack of academic help, finding access to food, housing assistance and other hardships.
- According to a study by the SUNY Counseling Network (2020),
  - Out of **2,031 participants**, more than **50% of SUNY students** experienced problems within their mental health.
- Food insecurity, Housing insecurity, and Mental health are all **basic necessities that intersect one another**, creating more pressure for the college student to handle on their own. The New Deal for CUNY is needed to **enhance the lives** of college students.



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## What does the New Deal for CUNY Include?

- Protects the quality of education and aims to restore a tuition-free university by:
  - Providing students with free tuition
  - replacing tuition income with public funds
  - increase mental health and academic counseling
  - more full-time faculty
  - provides desperately needed investments in campus buildings



## Why should I support the New Deal for CUNY?

- Strives to invest in CUNY by establishing an equitable COVID-19 recovery for struggling New York College Students.
- Passing the New Deal for CUNY will ultimately set the foundation for SUNY and have the students' needs served as well.
- Every student deserves to have the needed resources to complete their degree, and have access towards basic necessities, which would lead to less distress and an improvement in their mental health and wellbeing.
- Every student regardless of their background will have access to a quality college education debt-free.



## Additional Information and how you can get involved:

- Prime Sponsor of the Bill: Andrew Gounardes
- If the New Deal for CUNY were fully enacted, it would be \$1.47 billion, which would allow the reinvestment and additional resources in CUNY
- Prevent further cuts to CUNY and restore a tuition-free university
- Allow every CUNY and SUNY individual to prosper by recognizing their individual needs and promoting equity
- **Call your New York State representatives** and tell them you support New York State Bill A5843/S4461



**A New Day is Coming, A New Deal for CUNY is Coming!**