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CUNY Rising Alliance Response to the One-House Budgets

New York, New York - The CUNY Rising Alliance and its core member organizations respond to the One House Budgets released on Tuesday.

"The One-House budgets were both a positive sign in the right direction. Although the one-house budgets do not meet our full demand for a New Deal 4 CUNY, the legislature has made the right choice to restore investment in CUNY and omit the Governor's proposed tuition hikes, showing solidarity with the working people of New York. We commend the great work of champions for CUNY, including legislators, students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members, all working together to uphold the principle that access to a ~quality~ CUNY is a right for all. We call on the legislature to push even harder for the full investment CUNY needs, and we demand that the Governor complies with the overwhelming demand to end racist austerity policies, and work with the legislature to fully invest in public higher education and pass a budget that reflects a New Deal 4 CUNY." Said **Ethan Milich, Coordinator for the CUNY Rising Alliance**

"YDSA opposes tuition hikes at CUNY and supports the efforts of the State Assembly and Senate to stop the increase proposed by Governor Hochul. Any tuition increase at CUNY increases the economic burden that working-class students are already facing and creates further roadblocks to attaining higher education. Infrastructure on CUNY campuses has been severely neglected, we support the proposed increases in operational funding and capital investment in CUNY in the hopes that this funding will be used to address these issues. As Socialists, we continue to demand free, high-quality education for the people of New York and oppose attacks on CUNY and other working-class institutions." Said **Milo Keogh, Hunter College Chapter of the Young Democratic Socialists of America**

"The Legislative did what is right by rejecting the hikes and Reinvesting in our students and teachers. Investing in CUNY means promoting the success of our great country and making sure **CUNY stays a giant in higher education in the face of the entire world, across continents**. The goal is to create systemic progress to pave the way for the CUNY that we deserve. Therefore, we ask the Governor to support the Legislature in this great step towards making CUNY into the university that will benefit all people. We need to enact a budget that will lead towards food security, mental health support, transportation support and other services to support our students. These programs and support services that CUNY offers will allow us, students to thrive in a way to ensure that our future remains in the hands of the people of our great city." Said **Salimatou Doumbouya, Chairperson of the CUNY University Student Senate**

"The Senate and Assembly have stood up for students by rejecting the tuition hikes proposed in the Governor's executive budget and moving towards full funding for higher education. Reinvesting in our students and teachers instead of program cuts and tuition hikes promotes racial and economic justice and supports a stronger economy. We urge the Governor to stand with the Legislature to enact a final budget that holds the line on tuition, adds investment, expands financial aid and opportunity programs, and supports student services such as mental health counselors and campus food pantries," Said **Ayesha Schmitt, NYPIRG's Higher Education Coordinator**.

"We commend the Senate and Assembly for endorsing substantial increases in operational funding and capital investment for CUNY in their one-house budgets. The Legislature's commitment to revitalizing public higher education is crucial right now. Facing an increasingly uncertain economic future, low-income and working New Yorkers, immigrant communities, and communities of color are counting on CUNY – and on Albany – to ensure continued economic mobility and opportunity. The Legislature's opposition to tuition hikes and the investments they have prioritized can bring us closer to realizing a New Deal for CUNY while protecting students and staff from painful cuts to academic programs and student services threatened by pandemic enrollment declines and the expiration of federal stimulus. We look forward to working with Governor Hochul, Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins, Speaker Heastie and the many CUNY champions in the Legislature to deliver a final budget that realizes CUNY's potential as an engine of opportunity and equity." Said **James Davis, President of the Professional Staff Congress/CUNY**

