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For More Information, Please Contact:

Sarah Ravenhall, MHA, CHES, Executive Director, NYSACHO

518-456-7905

## **NYSACHO STATEMENT ON LEGISLATIVE BUDGET PROPOSALS**

### **Health Officials Laud Article 6 Restorations; Support Tobacco 21 and Blood Lead Level Reduction Plans, Request Additional Flexible Funding to Effectively Implement**

*By NYSACHO President Paul Pettit*

“The public health provisions contained in the legislature’s budget proposals are welcome and appreciated by New York’s county health officials. We applaud the legislature for supporting progressive tobacco control policies, including raising the age of sales of tobacco products to 21. We also commend the legislature for restoring the Executive’s proposed cut to Article 6 State Aid in New York City.

“However, simply sustaining current funding levels is of great concern to NYSACHO given that new proposals are likely to pass, significantly increasing the demand on local health department staff. The proposal to lower the actionable blood lead level (BLL) in children is welcome and supported, but will place enormous underfunded demands on local health departments.

“To effectively implement the BLL reduction proposal, NYSACHO recommends resources be increased to \$34.5M and that any new funding for this work be appropriated to the Department of Financial Services for the lead poisoning prevention and assistance program.

“Additionally, should the adult use cannabis proposal become law, it will place even greater strain on local departments. We look forward to continuing our work with the legislature and the governor to best ensure that these proposals are funded at levels necessary for effective and sustainable implementation.”

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