

August 19, 2010

The Honorable David A. Paterson
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Paterson,

I write this letter on behalf of the New York State Lifeguard Corps (NYSLC). As a state senator from a district on Long Island with a rich maritime history as well as an abundance of public and private beaches, I have a great appreciation and respect for the work done by our lifeguards. These brave men and women risk their personal safety in patrolling our oceans, bays and pools to protect the residents of New York.

As you are well aware, NYSLC has been operating without a formal contract since the end of 2003. Although the union has been officially negotiating with the state since July 2009, talks remain at a standstill. While I understand that the state is operating under severe fiscal strain, 8 years without a pay increase has taken a tremendous toll on the lifeguarding profession in New York. In light of the fact that other public employee unions have been able to exercise their collective bargaining agreements during this fiscal year, it seems unfair to deny this most basic right to the NYSLC. I respectfully urge that your administration treat the NYSLC with the same fairness, equity and good faith extended to all other state employee unions.

I thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. I look forward to hearing back from you in the near future.

Kindest Regards,

Brian X. Foley
Senator