

CITIZENS BUDGET COMMISSION

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CBC STATEMENT ON THE PASSAGE OF TIER V LEGISLATION

New York, NY – December 2, 2009 – The Citizens Budget Commission (CBC) today issued the following statement by CBC President Carol Kellermann:

Rapidly rising pension costs represent a major fiscal challenge for state and local governments in New York. Local contributions are expected to rise by 60 percent in the coming year. Today Legislators moved to help counteract the mounting pressure on state and local budgets by putting a new and less costly benefit plan in place for new public employees. Future savings resulting from the new benefit plan will, over the long run, amount to tens of billions of dollars. The legislation--a compromise package developed with the participation of labor, management, legislative leaders, and the Governor--represents a key step forward for New York State in its efforts to improve its ability to spend within its means. The CBC congratulates all parties to the negotiation and supports its adoption into law.

Founded in 1932, the Citizens Budget Commission is a nonpartisan, nonprofit civic organization devoted to influencing constructive change in the finances and services of New York State and New York City governments.