



August 2026

Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor
Executive Chamber, State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

RE: Prohibit Contracting Out During Hiring Freeze

Dear Governor Hochul,

As a member of the New York State Public Employees Federation (PEF), I urge you to approve legislation recently passed by both houses of the State Legislature that would prohibit the state from outsourcing work during a hiring freeze (S.4773 by Sen. Ryan/A.1396 by Asm. Eachus).

During the COVID-19 crisis, the previous administration issued a hiring freeze that decreased the state workforce, drove up overtime costs, and increased hours worked. Many state workers were designated by the former Governor as “essential” employees and mandated to put themselves and their families at risk in support of the state.

In order to meet the staffing crisis, the previous administration sought to increase the use of consultants and private contractors to do work formerly performed by public employees. This should never be allowed to happen again. If the state is forced to implement such drastic actions as a hiring freeze, then no additional taxpayer resources should be expended to hire expensive outside contractors at all, let alone hiring non-unionized workers to perform the duties previously performed by state employees.

Actions like this crush employee morale, undermine confidence in our government, harm critical services for New Yorkers and create a work culture that makes it difficult to attract and retain talent.

It is for these reasons that I urge you to sign this legislation into law.

Sincerely,

Name: _____

Address: _____

Signature: _____