

May 24, 2022

RE: Telecommuting (S.159/A.464)

Dear Legislator:

As a taxpayer, a constituent and a member of the New York State Public Employees Federation, I urge you to pass legislation to facilitate the ability of staff to telecommute where circumstances and conditions warrant (S.159 by Sen. Kaplan/A.464 by Asm. Rozic).

One positive outcome from the pandemic was the institution of telework for tens of thousands of state workers like me. This legislation does not mandate telework but it does set up the statutory framework to make telework a reality. Any telework arrangement developed under this legislation would still be subject to collective bargaining prior to implementation.

Teleworking offers an opportunity to reduce congestion, diminish our carbon footprint and save workers vital time and money. Teleworking has been shown to increase productivity and retention while reducing absenteeism as demonstrated by public and private employers across the nation who have successfully instituted telework as part of their normal business operations.

This legislation makes sense on every level. I urge you to support this legislation to help reduce our carbon emissions, diminish congestion and help workers and their families save some time and money.

Sincerely,