



COLIN J. SCHMITT
Assemblyman 99th District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
Local Governments Committee

COMMITTEES

Banks
Housing
Labor
Tourism, Parks,
Arts & Sports Development

March 12, 2019

Honorable Andrew Cuomo
Governor of New York State NYS
Capitol Building Albany, NY 12224

Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins
CAP 330
Albany, NY 12247

Honorable Brian Kolb
LOB 933
Albany, NY 12247

Honorable Carl Heastie
CAP 349
Albany, NY 12248

Honorable John Flanagan
CAP 314
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Governor Cuomo and Legislative Leaders:

This week is the 100th anniversary of the New York State American Legion. The New York State American Legion is well known and revered for its countless contributions to our state.

To mark the 100th Anniversary members of the Legion are advocating for much-deserved veteran funding in the state budget. Part of that request is funding for the American Legion Boys State program that has traditionally been a legislative add to the final budget.

We urge that the \$150,000 traditionally allocated for Empire State American Legion Boys State program will continue to be included in the final budget.

American Legion Boys State is a week-long program that takes rising high school seniors and gives them first class citizenship and leadership training. The students are immersed in a hands on experience in how government operates in New York. They also participate in physical fitness, teamwork and other activities, under the guidance of American Legion counselors and active duty Marines.

This program takes place annually at SUNY Morrisville and on average a 1,000 New York students from all regions of the state attend at zero personal expense to them or their families. For the last five years the final adopted state budget has included \$150,000 in the aid to localities budget under the Office of Children and Family Services line itemed directly to SUNY Morrisville to help defray the costs of running this program and ensure its continued operation on a SUNY campus.

We urge you to continue funding the American Legion Boys State program at the simple amount of \$150,000 in this year's budget as each budget for the last five years has.

Sincerely,

Colin J. Schmitt
Member of Assembly
99th District

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