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STATEMENT ON GOVERNOR HOCHUL'S 2022 STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS

By Sarah Ravenhall, NYSACHO Executive Director

"As a former local official Governor Hochul understands the challenges that local governments face and how the State can best help meet those challenges. Her inaugural State of the State address was a clear demonstration of that awareness and of her commitment to transparent and cooperative governance.

"Her address also was a wonderful and welcome return to the Assembly Chamber, but it was a chamber largely empty due to the appropriate compliance with COVID-19 protocols. As such, it was another unmistakable indication that public health must be at the very top of our state's priorities. We must do all we can to be continually prepared.

"We look forward to seeing the Governor's action plan in her forthcoming Executive Budget proposal, and we are eager to continue to partner with her team and the professionals at the state Department of Health to ensure our public health system is appropriately resourced and fully prepared to meet the many public health threats we encounter today, and those we undoubtedly will encounter in the future."

"As the Governor said: 'A once in a life time pandemic requires a once in a lifetime response.' We agree wholeheartedly, and believe that an historic response must include strong State support for local health departments who have been on the front lines of the pandemic since it began, alongside healthcare workers and first responders."

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To learn more about NYSACHO's 2022 state budget priorities, see the "PREPARE Act" at: https://www.nysacho.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/PREPARE-Act-Canva_12.22.21.pdf