

**COMMON CAUSE/NY
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS/N.Y.S.
NEW YORK PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP**

Contact:
Rachel Leon 917 847-3625
Barbara Bartoletti 518 469-8905
Blair Horner 518 436-0876

NEWS RELEASE

CIVIC GROUPS APPLAUD ANNOUNCEMENT BY ATTORNEY GENERAL CUOMO TO INVESTIGATE MEMBER ITEMS AND RAISE ETHICAL BAR FOR FUTURE GRANTS

Civic groups today praised Attorney General Andrew Cuomo's new initiative to launch a legal review of the approximately 6,000 legislative member items approved for distribution this year and to seek to recover any misspent funds.

The Attorney General stated the review will ensure that the spending meets the constitutional standard of fulfilling a legal "public purpose." Cuomo also laid out a four-prong review which he proposed should be applied to future member items to ensure the legality of the grants and the appropriate use of taxpayer dollars.

"The intensity just keeps building for reforming NYS. The public deserves a full accounting of member items and a new system of transparency and accountability. It appears the Attorney General will play a key role in this important effort," the groups said.