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## ***NEWS RELEASE***

**For immediate release:**

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

### **GROUPS URGE GOVERNOR-ELECT CUOMO TO USE EXECUTIVE POWERS TO ADVANCE CONSUMER, ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH, HIGHER EDUCATION AND REFORM ISSUES**

#### **REPORT IDENTIFIES 30 MEASURES FOR NEW GOVERNOR'S FIRST 100 DAYS**

Consumer advocates, environmentalists, health experts and government reformers today urged Governor-elect Andrew Cuomo to use his vast executive powers to improve the lives of New Yorkers. The groups highlighted issues that they believed could be addressed by the new governor alone in his first one hundred days in office.

The issues were contained in a report, *Rebuilding New York: 30 Steps the New Governor Can Immediately Take to Rebuild Confidence in Albany*, released by the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG). The 130-page report identifies 30 areas in which the governor can use his executive powers to:

- Increase protections for financial service, cell phone, utility and health consumers;
- Establish new environmental protections, as well as measures to curb greenhouse gas emissions;
- Hold the line on health and higher education costs; and
- Reform state government. (See attached list of the thirty measures.)

Each of the sections in the NYPIRG report is endorsed by other organizations with an interest in each of the reforms.

- 30 -

**Attachment: A List of 30 Steps the New Governor Can Take Immediately**

## TOPIC

### ***Consumer Protection***

1. Banking Consumers
2. Financial Consumers' Association
3. Non-Bank ATM Regulation
4. Cell Phone Protections
5. Opening Up the Insurance Marketplace
6. Auto Insurance Premiums

### ***Energy and the Environment***

7. Climate Change
8. Clean Energy
9. Natural Gas Drilling
10. Diesel Emissions
11. Citizens Utility Board
12. Solid Waste Reduction
13. Toxic Waste Cleanup
14. Pollution Prevention
15. New York City Water Quality
16. Pesticide Reductions
17. Environmental Justice

### ***Health Care***

18. Health Care Quality, Coverage & Costs
19. Reducing the Cost of Prescription Drugs
20. Comparing Drug Prices
21. Eliminating Childhood Lead Poisoning

### ***Higher Education***

22. College Affordability
23. Financial Aid Restorations

### ***Reforming State Government***

24. Ethics
25. Redistricting
26. Campaign Finance
27. Elections
28. Openness
29. Budgetary Openness
30. Regulatory Reform