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February 25, 2026

Kathy C. Hochul  
Governor of New York State

Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins  
New York State Senate

Speaker Carl Heastie  
New York State Assembly

**Re: NY Should Support Non-Profit News Equally with Commercial News**

Dear Governor and Legislative Leaders,

We urge you to provide the same state support for non-profit news outlets as you already do for commercial news outlets.

There are dozens of independent, non-profit news outlets spread around the state producing high quality journalism that is helping to keep the public informed following the collapse of the legacy news media.

When you approved the [Newspaper and Broadcast Media Jobs Program](#) in April 2024, you excluded non-profit journalism from state subsidies. This is clearly not fair or consistent with the state's stated logic for subsidizing commercial outlets because they are "vital to the health of our democracy." We urge you to remedy this omission. If commercial news outlets deserve state subsidies, so do non-profit outlets.

Creating an equal funding program for non-profit news should be easy and straightforward. The *Newspaper and Broadcast Media Jobs Program* established detailed eligibility criteria for commercial news outlets and the journalists they employ, as well as an application and approval process which can be largely mirrored for non-profit outlets. The only significant legislative change required to fund non-profit news is providing a different source of funding. Non-profit news is not eligible for the reimbursable tax credits – which are functionally grants – the state is using to subsidize commercial news. However, the state has many sources of funding to choose from and can and should find a mechanism to fund nonprofit news that does not threaten editorial independence.

We know there are robust arguments for and against government funding of the news media, but as long as New York State has decided to subsidize commercial news, it must find equal funding for non-profit news.

Thank you,

Reinvent Albany  
Association of Foreign Press Correspondents  
Citizens Union  
Common Cause New York  
Freedom of the Press Foundation  
League of Women Voters of New York State  
The Media and Democracy Project  
National Press Photographers Association (NPPA)  
PEN America  
Society of Environmental Journalists