

Why is New York State's Budget Tight?

Approximately **\$110 billion** is New York State's share of the monetary cost of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. (www.costofwar.com)

As New York State begins its legislative session, it's worth thinking about how these war dollars could have been spent here. Something is wrong in our society when cuts are demanded for education, healthcare, housing; yet there are always billions of dollars to spend on war.

How much longer can we squander money on counter-productive, endless wars while imposing austerity measures at the state and local levels? How long can New York State say "there's no money" while billions are being spent on war?

New York State depends on Federal tax dollars to meet its budget. As a state we New Yorkers should demand that the US war in Afghanistan end; no war with Iran is started; and Federal dollars –our tax dollars – come back to New York State to meet our needs.

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