

47% Compensation Increase

Carolyn Rynasko to me, Joe

11:56 AM

Through the editorial and opinion pages of the Daily Gazette on 7/29/2016, "Are you out of your minds?!", we have learned that the NYS Commission on Legislative, Judicial and Executive Compensation has recommended that the state Legislators and other state officials receive a pay raise of 47%. We would like to know how the Commission has arrived at such an outrageous pay increment for the approximately 200+ part-time positions without a referendum by NYS taxpayers. Not only do these state officials receive a base pay, they also enjoy the benefits of their positions, which include secretarial services, travel and healthcare pay for themselves and their families to name a few. It is incomprehensible to us that a seven-person appointed Commission has such decision-making power over NYS taxpayers who will ultimately have to foot the bill for this excessive proposal.

My husband has been a retiree for many years and has yet to receive a pay raise on his pension, and we both receive Social Security compensation. We hope you will reconsider your recommendation, particularly in light of the number of corruption cases in recent years involving members of our Legislature. It is also mind-boggling that the full NYS Legislature has the authority to vote and approve its own compensation package as recommended by the Commission. In conclusion, we would like the Commission to publicly reveal the total cost of this venture as a point of information for all NYS taxpayers.

Joseph and Carolyn Rynasko