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UB Alumni Association endorses Zimpher's plan

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The University at Buffalo Alumni Association, representing 200,000 living alumni all over the world, is very concerned about the future of UB and in complete support of the Public Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act. SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher's Another Voice column of hits the mark perfectly.

Public higher education is too important to be subject to the annual political and budget mayhem in Albany. SUNY needs to have the ability to manage its own tuition policies, ensuring that they are fair, equitable and maintain access. Speaking as the parent of five children who all went through the SUNY system, I would much rather deal with a rational, predictable tuition increase policy than subject parents and students to the irrational nuances of the state budget process.

Even more importantly, however, public higher education, teaming with private industry, can be a prime economic driver in a state that badly needs the stimulation. On the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus today, we can see evidence of what can happen when UB partners with the private sector— new construction jobs now, and longer term, permanent new high-paying professional and support jobs in medical research, clinical care and spin-off companies.

Great public universities are economic engines in states like Virginia, Michigan and North Carolina. Why does New York deserve less?

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