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□ **ALBANY OFFICE:**
946 Legislative Office Bldg.
Albany, NY 12247
Phone: (518) 455-2529

□ **DISTRICT OFFICE:**
74-09 37th Ave., Ste. 302
Jackson Heights, NY 11372
Phone: (718) 205-3881

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CONTACT: Astrid Aune, aaune@nysenate.gov

SENATOR RAMOS AND 32 SENATE COLLEAGUES ISSUE LETTER IN SUPPORT OF IATSE WORKERS, ENCOURAGING THE ALLIANCE OF MOTION PICTURE AND TELEVISION PRODUCERS TO RETURN TO THE BARGAINING TABLE

NY Chair of the State Senate Labor Committee, Senator Ramos, cites concerns over extreme work hours, fair pay, and measures to protect the mental and physical health of film and television workers

QUEENS, NY– Following the issuance of a national strike authorization ballot to tens of thousands of eligible IATSE members nation-wide, State-level elected officials in New York and California urge the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers to return to the table to bargain in good faith.

Senator Jessica Ramos, Chair of the NY Senate Labor Committee, representing the Queens neighborhoods of Corona, East Elmhurst, Jackson Heights, and parts of Astoria, Elmhurst, and Woodside, voiced early support for IATSE workers, who are demanding living wages, sustainable benefits, and reasonable rest periods between shifts and during the workday.

“On behalf of our constituents who rely on and benefit from the film and television industry, we are urging AMPTP to return to a good faith negotiation of fair successor contracts with IATSE. We have heard appalling stories from our constituents who work in the industry, detailing a standard practice of working extensive consecutive days with little to no breaks, resulting in severe impacts on the mental and physical health of these workers. New York State and the Film and Television industry’s public/private partnership is directly responsible for bringing New York to its second golden age of film and television production, but this revival is nothing to be celebrated if it comes at the expense of working people,” says Senator Ramos.

The letter has been co-signed by Senators Krueger, Salazar, Reichlin-Melnick, Hoylman, Kennedy, Gaughran, Sanders, Kaplan, Serrano, Liu, Brouk, Hinchey, Cooney, Boyle, Thomas,

Brisport, Skoufis, Mayer, Jackson, Biaggi, Gounardes, Savino, Harckham, Mannion, Kavanaugh, May, Rivera, Comrie, Stavisky, Persaud, Myrie, and Bailey

Chaim Kantor, Associate National Executive Director, International Cinematographers Guilds, IATSE Local 600 said: “On behalf of the members of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE) and IATSE Local 600, we express our deep appreciation to Senator Ramos and the 33 other members of the New York State Senate who signed this letter of support to the AMPTP. Over many years, these Senators have supported our industry and efforts to promote production in New York. Their support has given us tens of thousands of jobs and brought billions of dollars into our State’s economy. We thank them for that and for the recognition that our members deserve a safe, healthy and fair workplace.”

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