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Statement from Ron Deutsch on Governor Paterson's Press Conference:

On the Federal Stimulus:

"Governor Paterson needs to understand that laying off thousands of New Yorkers is not good for the state's economy. The cuts contained in his budget to education, healthcare, the state workforce and social programs will not be needed if he chooses to use the federal stimulus in the way that President Obama suggests. The point of the federal stimulus is to protect jobs and strengthen state economies, not to have the money put away for a rainy day. We already have a rainy day fund that the Governor will not spend. Does the Governor really think laying off thousands of teachers is going to help the state economy?"

On Making the Wealthy Share in the Budget Burden:

"Could the Governor be sending more mixed messages on this issue? In 2003 he voted to override Governor Pataki's veto of the temporary income tax surcharge on the wealthy. Now, one day he seems almost for it, another day adamantly against it and the next day leaving the door open to the possibility. One day it's a last resort that may be needed, another day it's a horrible idea because it will drive the wealthy from the state and the next day he is ready to veto it. If his strategy is to confuse us about his positions on the issue he is succeeding."

"It also seems that Mayor Bloomberg has caught the waffling bug on this issue as well. A couple of months ago, when Gov. Paterson first started rejecting the idea of a millionaires tax, Mayor Bloomberg seemed in favor of a millionaires tax saying:

AP Article: November 13, 2008

"I can only tell you, among my friends, I've never heard one person say 'I'm going to move out of the city because of taxes,'" said New York City [Mayor Michael Bloomberg](#), the billionaire businessman. "Not one. Not in all the years I've lived here. You know, they can complain, 'Oh got my tax bill, it's heavy.' But they've not ever thought that. My friends all want to live here and understand the value."

"Now Mayor Bloomberg has changed his tune and is supporting Governor Paterson in opposition to the 'millionaires tax'. Why has he changed his mind?"

