

"While Time Warner Cable customers may be hoping the rate increase notice they received in the mail is a cruel April Fools' joke, the sad reality is that this is no joking matter at all. At a time when New Yorkers are struggling to keep up with the rising cost of gas, food, health care, and other important items, the last thing they need is another rate increase on their cable bill. Time Warner Cable's decision to increase rates adds to the financial burden that so many people are feeling all across our state and country. It's unfair and I urge the company to find ways to ease the financial impact for its subscribers who have limited choices when it comes to cable providers.

"I was one of the few people who voted against the Telecommunications Act of 1996 because I recognized that the deregulation of the industry would result in less competition of the cable industry and higher rates for customers. Supporters of the bill said the bill would drive prices down and increase competition, but the bill was simply a giveaway to the telecom industry and the American people continue to pay the price.

"I will explore legislative options to help rein in Time Warner and other cable industries. Something must be done to give people more options when it comes to cable providers, which in turn will help keep prices down."