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April 19, 2026

BLAKEMAN EXPOSES HOCHUL'S "SECRET BUSINESS TAX"; WARNS FAMILIES TO BRACE FOR HIGHER PRICES AS HOCHUL TARGETS JOB CREATORS

Nassau County Executive and Republican gubernatorial candidate Bruce Blakeman today blasted Kathy Hochul for proposing what he called a "secret business tax" in her FY 2027 budget—warning it will squeeze local employers and drive up prices for everyday New Yorkers.

Under Hochul's plan, businesses would be taxed immediately on money they invest in research and development, even though federal tax rules allow those costs to be fully deducted right away. Blakeman argued the proposal amounts to a hidden, \$1.68 billion tax on innovation—one that will ultimately be passed on to consumers through higher prices.

"Kathy Hochul never met a tax she didn't like, but this 'Innovation Tax' is a new low—even for her," said Blakeman. "She claims she's not raising taxes on families, but when you slam a local manufacturer or startup with a massive \$1.68 billion tax burden, they have two options: cut jobs or raise prices. Either way, hardworking New Yorkers pay the price. The next time you see higher prices on a product made in New York, you can thank Kathy Hochul's backdoor tax hikes."

Blakeman said the choice is clear: support growth and affordability, or continue down Hochul's path of higher taxes and higher prices. He pledged to repeal the tax and put New York back on a pro-growth track.

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