



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR  
Michael Gianaris

## Senate Deputy Leader Gianaris Announces Support For Bill Making Diwali A New York City School Holiday

MICHAEL GIANARIS June 7, 2023

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ALBANY, N.Y. – Senate Deputy Leader Michael Gianaris announced his support for legislation making Diwali ([S.7552](#)) a holiday for New York City schools.

“The growing New York communities who observe Diwali enrich our city and contribute greatly to the strength of our diversity,” said **Senate Deputy Leader Michael Gianaris**. “As the child of immigrants, I know how important it is to have special cultural occasions observed by the city we call home. I am eager to make Diwali part of the school calendar so even more families can have their important holidays recognized.”

Diwali is a celebration of light overcoming darkness that is common in several Indian religions, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, and Jainism.

**“I am proud to champion school holidays for Lunar New Year and Diwali,” said U.S. Rep. Grace Meng (D-Queens).** “I led the Lunar New Year bill when I served in the State Legislature and worked to establish a school holiday for Lunar New Year in New York City, and for years, I have pushed for schools to be closed for Diwali as well. In Congress, I am leading legislation to make Lunar New Year and Diwali federal holidays. I thank Deputy Leader Gianaris for announcing his support for the State Senate bills, and I look forward to their passage.”

**New York City Council Member Shekar Krishnan, 25th District** said, “Diwali is a special holiday for so many South Asian and Indo-Caribbean communities. As the first Indian American ever elected to New York City government, I’m proud to support Senator Gianaris’ efforts to establish Diwali as a school holiday, and I’m excited that children like my own will soon be able to celebrate our holidays with their families, in a way that I was not able to growing up.”