



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

James Tedisco

## Tedisco, Santabarbara Call on Gov. Hochul to Expand Child Victims Privacy Law, Create New Cold Case Unit to Find Missing Persons

JAMES TEDISCO January 10, 2025

| ISSUE: **CHILD SAFETY, 2025 STATE BUDGET, MISSING PERSONS**



Senator Tedisco and Assemblyman Santabarbara join Sena family, Mary Lyall to make bi-partisan request that the Governor include in her state budget proposal new privacy protections for child victims and initiate a new unit in the NYS Police dedicated to finding missing persons and solving cold cases

Senator Jim Tedisco (R,C-Ballston Lake) and Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara (D-Rotterdam) today announced a new bipartisan effort to urge Governor Kathy Hochul to include new privacy protections for child victims and the creation of a state Cold Case Unit

to find missing persons.

Tedisco and Santabarbara are being supported in their legislative efforts by the Sena family, whose then 9-year-old daughter was kidnapped while riding her bike in Moreau Lake State Park in 2023. In the months following her rescue, the child survivor faced numerous occasions of being retraumatized in her dealings with the legal system as part of the run-up to the kidnapper's conviction.

Senator Tedisco and Assemblyman Santarbara also have the support from nationally-recognized missing persons advocate Mary Lyall of Ballston Spa, whose daughter Suzanne Lyall went missing from SUNY Albany in 1998.

Last year, Tedisco and Santabarbara sponsored legislation and called on the Governor through the budget to install security cameras at the entrances and exits of Moreau Lake State Park and all state parks. Cameras and additional security measures are now up at Moreau Lake State Park and in the process of being implemented in the more than 180 other state parks and recreational facilities.

Senator Tedisco and Assemblyman Santabarbara are now eyeing a similar approach by requesting the Governor implement their legislation, "**The Child Survivor Privacy Act**," (S.22) in the state budget (letter attached) to help survivors who are minors by ensuring they have a dedicated advocate present during all questioning and proceedings. Many times, when minors must share their story and give depositions in such a case, there is either no advocate present or a different person accompanying them each time. The bill also has several privacy protections for child victims.

*"Helping to find missing persons and supporting their families has been one of the areas that I've focused on over my legislative career. I've been proud to work with the Sena family of the courageous Corinth young lady who was kidnapped over a year ago on new legislation to help child survivors by ensuring they*

*have a dedicated advocate present during all questioning and proceedings and to add new protections to safeguard their privacy. We also have the support of one of my heroes, Mary Lyall and the Center for Hope, to seek the creation of a new special unit in the New York State Police dedicated to finding missing persons and solving cold cases. We are making a bipartisan approach to the Governor to implement these common sense policy ideas as part of her state budget where we believe we have a good chance of them becoming law,”* said Senator Jim Tedisco, who has long been recognized as a leading state legislative expert on issues related to missing persons.

*“As a father, I understand the importance of safeguarding the well-being of our children and supporting families through unimaginable challenges,”* said Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara. *“This bipartisan effort reflects our shared commitment to protecting child survivors from further trauma and ensuring their privacy during legal proceedings. Additionally, creating a Cold Case Unit within the New York State Police is a crucial step in bringing closure to families who have waited far too long for answers. Our goal is to make these necessary changes a key part of the Governor’s state budget,”* said Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara.

*“Our family has been through an unimaginable trauma, and since then, protecting Charlotte’s privacy and others like her has been our primary focus. We have been working hard alongside Senator Tedisco and Assemblyman Santabarbara on this initiative to ensure all the children of NYS stay safe and protected at all times. The Governor has been personally involved and invested in Charlotte’s case and through our personal interactions with her over the past year, we know she has the same goal of protecting the precious children of our great state. We strongly urge her to include the Child Survivor Privacy act in this year’s legislative budget,”* said Jene Sena of Schenectady, Charlotte’s aunt.

*“While I deeply appreciate all the work done day after day by the New York State Police to help find missing persons, New York really needs a special unit that’s solely laser-focused on solving missing persons and cold cases. Too many families, like mine, face the quiet desperation of not knowing what happened to their loved ones. I want to thank Senator Tedisco and Assemblyman Santabarbara for making this one of their legislative priorities and I hope the Governor would give this serious consideration to include in her budget,”* said Mary Lyall, Co-Founder of the Center for Hope in Ballston Spa, and mother of Suzanne Lyall, who has been missing since 1998.

Santabarbara and Tedisco also are sponsoring legislation to expedite the triggering of an Amber Alert to help respond to abduction cases more expeditiously and raise criminal

penalties for crimes against children ([A8208A/S8165](#)).

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#### RELATED LEGISLATION

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## 2025-S22

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- Introduced
- - In Committee Assembly
  - In Committee Senate
- - On Floor Calendar Assembly
  - On Floor Calendar Senate
- - Passed Assembly
  - Passed Senate
- Delivered to Governor
- Signed By Governor
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Enacts the "child survivor privacy act"

December 16, 2024

In Senate Committee [Codes](#)

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NAY

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## 2023-S8165

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- Introduced
- - In Committee Assembly
  - In Committee Senate
- - On Floor Calendar Assembly
  - On Floor Calendar Senate
- - Passed Assembly
  - Passed Senate
- Delivered to Governor
- Signed By Governor
- 

Provides for a formal process for a parent or legal guardian to request the issuance of an AMBER alert

January 10, 2024

In Senate Committee [Children and Families](#)

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