



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Anna M. Kaplan

Senator Anna Kaplan Helps Pass Legislation to Address Disparities In Healthcare for Minorities

ANNA M. KAPLAN February 2, 2021

| ISSUE: **HEALTH EQUITY, RACIAL EQUITY, ASTHMA, BREASTFEEDING, ADDICTION AND OVERDOSE PREVENTION**



(Carle Place, NY) **Senator Anna M. Kaplan** (D-Great Neck) helped pass legislation today to close the racial disparities gap in healthcare, building on the Senate Majority Conference's continued work to protect the healthcare rights of all New Yorkers. This package will enact cultural education training for medical professionals, establish programs to recognize healthcare disparities, examine environmental effects of urban settings on public health,

review changes in hospital services, and encourage equity in the addiction treatment services. These bills will also enact an evaluation of ethnic disparities in infant mortality and breastfeeding to enhance the quality of healthcare services in New York and provide the necessary protections, and support these underserved communities' needs.

Senator Anna M. Kaplan said, "The COVID pandemic has exposed and exacerbated many of the inequities that minority New Yorkers face every day, particularly around disparities in healthcare. The bills being passed by the Senate Majority today will begin to address these disparities and work towards more equitable access to healthcare services for all New Yorkers."

"The Senate Democratic Majority is working aggressively to end the significant healthcare disparities in communities of color. This is only the start of addressing the systemic inequalities in the medical field," Senate **Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins** said. "We will continue to break down the barriers in the healthcare sector that have led to severe implicit biases affecting diagnosis and care. Regardless of zip code, physical ability, gender, or race, everyone deserves equal access to quality treatment within the healthcare system. This legislation will not only alleviate the discriminatory obstacles minority New Yorkers face today, but it will also benefit the health and livelihood of our entire state."

The legislation passed by the Senate Majority, include:

- **Cultural Education for Medical Professionals:** This bill [S.1352](#) Sponsored by Senator Jose M. Serrano will require healthcare professionals to complete Continuing Medical Education courses in cultural awareness and competence training.
- **Collaboration Programs to Address Healthcare Disparities:** This bill [S.1374](#) sponsored by Senator James Sanders Jr. will authorize programs to work with hospitals, home care agencies and physicians to target health disparities thus improving health outcomes for

under-served persons and reducing health care costs within the State.

- **Interagency Taskforce on Health Literacy:** This bill [S.1407](#) sponsored by Senator Parker will establish an interagency task force on health literacy to develop recommendations to improve access to available health services, identify barriers that prevent residents from being able to access available health services, and identify and educate groups at risk for low health literacy.
- **Health Equity Assessment For Certificate of Need Applications:** This bill [S.1451](#) sponsored by Senator Gustavo Rivera, will require a health equity assessment to be filed with an application for construction or change to a hospital or health related service, allowing consideration on how the project will impact medically underserved groups.
- **Minority Coordinating Council on Asthmatic Affairs:** This bill [S.410A](#) sponsored by Senator Alessandra Biaggi, establishes a minority coordinating council of asthmatic affairs to assess the asthma risk factors for minority citizens in NY, identify existing barriers to quality asthma treatment and care among minorities, develop action steps for addressing care issues, and launch a state-wide asthma awareness campaign.
 - Written in response to the death of Lydia Soto, a child from the South Bronx who passed away due to complications with asthma.
- **Study of Asthma in Cities:** This bill [S.646A](#) sponsored by Senator James Sanders Jr., directs the New York State Department of Health to conduct a study on the incidences of asthma in cities having a population of more than ninety thousand.
- **Addiction Treatment Equity:** This bill [S.679A](#) sponsored by Senator Pete Harckham, establishes the Council for Treatment Equity within the Office of Addiction Services and Supports to address substance use disorder treatment disparities among vulnerable populations across the state

- **Study of Ethnic Disparities in Infant Mortality:** This bill [S.879](#) sponsored by Senator Brian Benjamin requires the Department of Health of the state of New York to conduct a study of the effects of racial and ethnic disparities on infant mortality and prepare and submit a report.
- **Study of Ethnic Disparities in Breastfeeding:** This bill [S.1296](#) sponsored by Senator Brian Benjamin requires the Department of Health of the state of New York to conduct a review of the effects of racial and ethnic disparities on breastfeeding rates and prepare and submit a report.

New York ranks [30th](#) out of 50 states in its maternal death rates, an issue that has amplified the racial and ethnic health disparities in the state. The number of reported maternal mortalities in New York increased over time from [15.4 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2001-2003](#) to [19.6 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2014-2016](#). The United States rate more than doubled during this time. The number for maternal mortality for women of color, especially for Black women, is even higher. In 2019, the Senate Democratic Majority enacted the [Maternal Mortality Review Board](#) to hear from those directly impacted and make recommendations to address and create new strategies to combat this crisis head-on.

RELATED LEGISLATION

2021-S1407

-
- 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
-

Establishes the interagency task force on health literacy

January 11, 2021

In Assembly Committee

Sponsored by [Kevin S. Parker](#)

Do you support this bill?

2021-S1352

- 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
-

Requires cultural awareness and competence training for medical professionals

January 11, 2021

In Assembly Committee

Sponsored by **Jose M. Serrano**

Do you support this bill?

2021-S1374

- 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
-

Relates to collaborative models for addressing health care disparities

January 11, 2021

In Assembly Committee

Sponsored by [James Sanders Jr.](#)

Do you support this bill?

2021-S1451

- 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
-

Relates to requiring a health equity assessment to be filed with an application for construction or change to a hospital or health related service

January 06, 2021

Signed by Governor

Sponsored by **Gustavo Rivera**

Do you support this bill?

2021-S410A

- 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
-

Enacts the "Lydia Soto law"

December 30, 2020

Passed Assembly

Sponsored by [Alessandra Biaggi](#)

Do you support this bill?

2021-S646A

- 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
-

Directs the New York state department of health to conduct a study on the incidences of asthma in cities and towns having a population of more than ninety thousand

January 04, 2021

Signed by Governor

Sponsored by **James Sanders Jr.**

Do you support this bill?

2021-S679A

- 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
-

Establishes the council for treatment equity within the office of addiction services and supports

January 04, 2021

Signed by Governor

Sponsored by **Pete Harckham**

Do you support this bill?

2021-S879

- 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
-

Requires the department of health of the state of New York to conduct a study of the effects of racial and ethnic disparities on infant mortality and prepare and submit a report

January 05, 2021

Signed by Governor

Sponsored by **Brian Benjamin**

Do you support this bill?

2021-S1296

- 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
-

Requires the department of health of the state of New York to conduct a review of the effects of racial and ethnic disparities on breastfeeding rates and prepare and submit a report

January 11, 2021

Signed by Governor

Sponsored by **Brian Benjamin**

Do you support this bill?