



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Alessandra Biaggi

## SENATOR BIAGGI JOINS NYS SENATE MAJORITY IN PASSING LEGISLATION TO SUPPORT STUDENT AID IN HIGHER EDUCATION

ALESSANDRA BIAGGI February 10, 2021

**BRONX, NY** – Yesterday, State Senator Alessandra Biaggi joined the Senate Democratic Majority in passing major legislation to improve student aid in the higher education institutions of New York schools. The bills advanced will provide support to veteran students through campus resources and academic credit opportunities. The legislation passed by the Senate Majority also standardizes the award schedule of the Tuition Assistance Program for dependent and independent students, creates a task force to study refinance options for private student loans, protects the privacy rights of immigrant students on campus, and helps provide the community and state college systems of New York the support they deserve.

**State Senator Alessandra Biaggi (D-Bronx/Westchester) issued the following statement:**

"Our higher education system must always prioritize the best interests of the students it's intended to serve. I am glad to join my colleagues in passing important legislation to expand financial accessibility to degree programs and create additional protections for immigrant students at SUNY and CUNY institutions. I extend my gratitude to the bill sponsors for their leadership to move these bills forward."

## **The bills advanced by the Senate Majority include:**

- **Helping Veterans in our Colleges:** This bill [S.2291](#) sponsored by Senator James Sanders Jr. will require the State University of New York and the City University of New York to examine and conduct a study on the availability of campus services, programs and resources for veteran students.
- **SUNY/CUNY Veteran Credit:** This bill [S.2680A](#) sponsored by Senator Joseph P. Addabbo will allow state operated institutions to grant academic credit to veterans based on their military experiences.
- **Immigrant Student Privacy Protections:** This bill [S.2778](#) sponsored by Senator Toby Ann Stavisky prohibit any employee or officer of a CUNY or SUNY university to request the specific details of a student's immigration status except when required by federal law, pursuant to court order, or as required in connection with tuition or financial aid eligibility.
- **Help Returning Students and Update their TAP Award Amounts:** These two bills [S.2764/](#)[S.2765](#) sponsored by Senator Toby Ann Stavisky will update the tuition assistance program, to increase award amounts to current day rates for dependent and independent students at degree-granting colleges in the state. This will incentivize students to continue their education.
- **Standing up for Borrowers and creating the Student Loan Refinance Task Force:** This bill [S.2767](#) sponsored by Senator Tim Kennedy will establish a private student loan refinance task force, made of various lending experts, legislative, and state representatives to come up with solutions to benefit borrowers.