



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Anna M. Kaplan

## Senator Kaplan Honors Afghan American Group Leader

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**Photo caption:** On Wednesday, August 3, **Senator Anna M. Kaplan** (D-North Hills) presented **Wazma Wardak Hassan**, Founder and CEO of **Afghan Americans of New York (AANY)**, with a proclamation on behalf of the New York State Senate in recognition of her dedicated service to the community, and in recognition of the important work of AANY. The mission of AANY is to unite and empower Afghan Americans through community service, economic opportunity, and civic engagement. During the pandemic, the group assisted seniors with vaccine appointments and distributed food to community organizations and neighbors in

need. In response to the crisis of anti-Asian violence, the group has worked to combat hate by standing in solidarity with fellow Asian Americans and demonstrating unity as New Yorkers against the forces that seek to divide us.

**Senator Kaplan** said “I’ve been blessed to know Wazma and the good work she does in our community for many years, and I’m so grateful for her service, and that of Afghan Americans of New York. Groups like AANY are a vital part of the fabric of our community, helping bring people together while celebrating the richness of our diversity as Americans. It’s my honor to recognize Wazma and AANY for their tireless efforts, and I thank them for their service on behalf of the New York State Senate.”