

Senator Brad Hoylman

SPRING 2020

COVID-19 SPECIAL REPORT



Dear Neighbor:

COVID-19 has caused a massive state budget shortfall, stretched our healthcare system to the brink, and led to mass unemployment. In our Senate district alone, there has been untold harm to small businesses, the human services sector, cultural institutions, our schools and mass transit.

Worst of all is the human suffering inflicted on many of our friends, family and stalwarts of our community. Yet this pandemic has also brought out the best in us, too, which I witness nearly every day through neighbors helping each other through this difficult time.

Because government is more important than ever, I wanted to send you this COVID-19 Special Report. If you have any questions, please contact me at **212-633-8052** or **hoylman@nysenate.gov**. You can also visit me online at **<http://hoylman.nysenate.gov>**.

Please be safe.
Sincerely,

Brad Hoylman
State Senator
27th District

COVID-19 STATE LEGISLATIVE & BUDGET UPDATE

In March, prior to the passage of the State budget, the Legislature addressed the coronavirus pandemic through the following measures:

- **Enacting emergency paid sick leave** for New Yorkers in quarantine due to exposure to COVID-19;
- **Waiving the 7-day waiting period for unemployment insurance** so workers whose employers closed due to the pandemic can get relief as quickly as possible;
- **Providing for a \$40 million emergency relief package** to help the State prepare for the challenges of fighting COVID-19;
- **Granting temporary powers to the Governor** to issue directives necessary to guide the State's response to the COVID-19 emergency.

While the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the State budget process and 2020 Legislative Session, the Legislature passed a timely and balanced budget on April 2. This budget unfortunately includes cuts because of historic revenue shortfalls, but also these new funds to address the COVID-19 pandemic:

- **\$4 billion** in State emergency appropriations to directly address the COVID-19 crisis;
- **\$200 million** in additional support for the Child Care Development Block Grant to assist families affected by the public health emergency;
- **\$60 billion** in support for Unemployment Insurance, to provide a 13-week extension of benefits and an additional weekly benefit of up to \$1,100 a week, more than double the normal amount.

The budget also contains a number of my initiatives, including:

- **New open space for Hudson River Park** – With Community Board 4, I advocated for a provision in the budget that will finally force the NYPD's tow pound at Pier 76 to relocate, creating much-needed open space;



I delivered face masks to frontline medical workers at Ryan Chelsea-Clinton Health Center, Bellevue Hospital & GMHC.

- **Ending gun violence** – The budget includes legislation based on The Safe Homes Act, my bill that requires law enforcement to take temporary custody of guns found at the scene of domestic violence incidents, which are rising during COVID-19 quarantines;
- **Justice for domestic violence survivors** – The budget also contains my legislation requiring courts to consider the history of domestic violence when determining the equitable distribution of property during a divorce proceeding to protect the assets of survivors;
- **\$10 million for immigrant legal services** – With my advocacy, the budget includes \$10 million in new funding to provide immigrant New Yorkers with legal representation in deportation proceedings at a time when the Trump Administration has ramped up these actions;
- **Access to free PEP for minors who are sexually assaulted** – The budget also includes my legislation to ensure minors who are the victims of sexual assault are entitled to free post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP).

In addition, I passed these bills earlier in the legislative session:

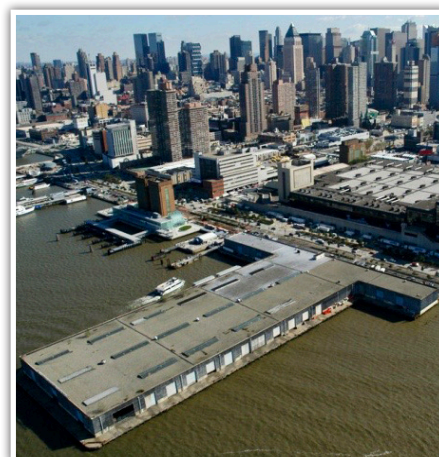
- **Adding two consumer representatives to the Public Health and Health Planning Council** (S.7304), which is my and Assemblymember Richard Gottfried's bill in response to the closure of hospitals across Manhattan that has partly led to a lack of beds during the current COVID-19 health crisis;
- **Legislation to require all rear passengers age eight and older wear seatbelts** in taxis and livery vehicles (S.7134);



The Senate voted on the State Budget virtually to help comply with social-distancing guidelines.

- **Phasing out the use of PFAS chemicals in firefighting foam**, which can cause birth defects and certain cancers (S.7167).

I have many bills in response to the COVID-19 pandemic that were not addressed in the budget, including: S.8186, creating a \$1,000 tax credit for COVID-19 convalescent plasma donations; S.8182, authorizing pharmacists to administer COVID-19 vaccinations as soon as one has been approved for use by the FDA; and S.8195, allowing frontline medical personnel to take a tax deduction of up to \$5,000 for out-of-pocket transportation and PPE purchases they incur during the COVID-19 response efforts. I'm hopeful that the Senate will utilize our new ability to conduct legislative work remotely to pass these and many more legislative priorities.



I fought for new open space in the Hudson River Park by requiring NYC's tow pound to leave Pier 76.



Senator Brad Hoylman Presents:
COVID-19 IMPORTANT NUMBERS
Resources for you and your family



GENERAL

General Inquiries: 311
In an emergency: 911

CIVIL RIGHTS

NYS Division of Human Rights:
888-392-3644

CONSUMERS

NYS Division of Consumer
 Protection Price Gouging Hotline:
800-697-1220

NYS Attorney General's Information
 & Complaint Helpline:
800-771-7755

Education Debt Consumer
 Assistance Program (EDCAP):
888-614-5004

NYS Department of Financial
 Services Consumer Hotline:
800-342-3736

Human Resources
 Administration (HRA) Infoline:
718-557-1399

COURTS

NYS Court System Coronavirus
 Hotline: **833-503-0447**

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

NYC Domestic Violence Hotline:
800-621-4673 (HOPE)

DONATIONS

NYC PPE Donation Hotline:
833-692-0040 or 311

FOOD

NYC Emergency Food Hotline:
866-888-8777 or 311

HEALTH

NYS Department of Health
 COVID-19 Hotline:
888-364-3065

HOUSING

Met Council on Housing
 Tenant Hotline:
212-979-0611

INSURANCE

Community Health Advocates
 Insurance Helpline:
888-614-5400

MENTAL HEALTH

NYS Office of Mental Health
 Emotional Support Hotline:
844-863-9314

NYC Well:
888-NYC-Well (692-9355)
 or text "Well" to **65173**

SENIORS

NYC Department
 for the Aging
 Connect Hotline:
212-244-6469 or 311

SMALL BUSINESS

Small Business
 Administration (SBA)
 New York District Office:
212-264-2454

TRANSIT

MTA
 Customer Service Line:
511

MTA Paratransit
 Access-a-Ride Service:
877-337-2017

UNEMPLOYMENT

NYS Department of Labor:
888-209-8124

*For additional resources, visit my
 comprehensive online COVID-19
 Constituent Resource Guide at:
shorturl.at/asU05*

Fighting Evictions During the Pandemic



Rallying with Stuy Town—Peter Cooper Village tenants announcing their lawsuit in February.

Thousands of tenants could face eviction this summer if the Governor's eviction moratorium ends without further tenant relief. To address this, I've announced the NYS Tenant Safe Harbor Act (S.8192), which would prevent landlords from seeking evictions for unpaid rent accruing from the beginning of the COVID-19 state of emergency until six months after it ends. I also co-sponsor legislation (S.8125-A) to cancel rent for 90 days for tenants who've lost their jobs due to COVID-19 and legislation with Assemblymember Harvey Epstein (S.8188) to permit tenants to terminate their leases early, without penalty, under emergency circumstances.

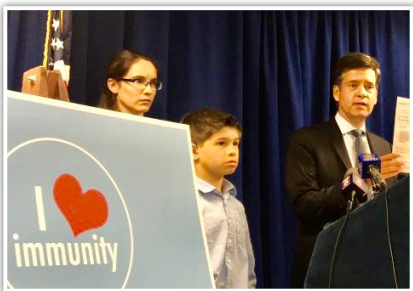
Budget Bright Spot: My Surrogacy Legislation Passes

Surrogacy has been legal in 47 states, but not New York, where it was actually deemed a felony in certain circumstances. No longer. On April 2, the legislature passed our Child-Parent Security Act, which permits compensated surrogacy agreements. The legislation, which was part of the State Budget, enacts a Surrogates' Bill of Rights that provides the strongest protections in the nation for women acting as surrogates, ensuring they are entitled to make all healthcare decisions for themselves and receive independent legal counsel of their choosing, paid health and life insurance, and the right to counseling. The bill also contains new provisions to protect egg donors. I've fought to pass this legislation since I first arrived to the Senate in 2013, inspired by my family's own experience with surrogacy in California. Thanks to the work of hundreds of advocates who shared their heartfelt personal stories about surrogacy, LGBTQ people and individuals struggling with infertility can now plan to have families here in New York. This new law goes into effect on February 15, 2021.



My husband and I with our daughters, born through surrogacy, at the march against anti-Semitism.

The Pandemic Shows We Must End the Gay Blood Ban



In the wake of the pandemic, I'm prouder than ever fighting for the expansion of vaccines.

Our nation is facing a tremendous national blood shortage, as thousands of blood drives have been cancelled due to concerns about coronavirus. In response, I sent a letter on March 24 urging the FDA to reverse its outdated and discriminatory ban on gay men donating blood, which could increase the overall blood supply by 4 percent, assisting more than 1.8 million Americans. After I sent my letter, the FDA loosened the ban, but I'll continue to advocate it be lifted entirely. This ban also applies to plasma donation, which is being sought from COVID-19 survivors for research and treatment by blood banks.



New York is facing a historic blood shortage in the middle of our COVID-19 pandemic.

You can make the difference.

JOIN TEAM HOYLMAN AND DONATE TO SAVE LIVES.

Donations are by appointment only.

Sign up to donate: <https://nybloodcenter.org/donate-blood/>

Success! We Outlawed Flavored E-Cigarettes



Joining young advocates campaigning against flavored e-cigarettes in Albany.

Vaping among young people is rising at an alarming rate in our state, threatening to hook a new generation on nicotine. According to NYS Department of Health, nearly 40 percent of 12th grade students and 27 percent of all high school students in New York are now using e-cigarettes, largely because of flavored e-liquids. Therefore, I'm glad that this year's State Budget includes my legislation (S.428-B/A.47-A) with Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal to impose a statewide ban on flavored e-cigarettes, including menthol. Our new law is even more important since the FDA has warned that vaping increases susceptibility to respiratory illnesses like COVID-19.

Cracking Down on Price Gougers During the Pandemic



Leading a press conference in Albany on our legislation to fight COVID-19 price gouging.

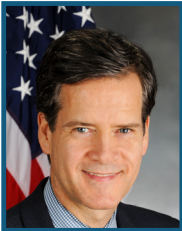
I'm sure you've noticed dramatically higher prices on everyday consumer medical supplies, such as face masks and hand sanitizers. This price gouging hurts seniors and lower-income people the most. I've introduced legislation (S.8189) that will allow the Attorney General to go after price gougers of New York State and local governments as they seek to procure essential medical supplies and equipment. I've also introduced legislation (S.7932) similar to existing laws in California and New Jersey allowing the Attorney General to penalize any retailer, distributor or manufacturer who sells consumer medical supplies for an "unconscionable excessive price" that is 10% or more higher before a public emergency.



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BRAD HOYLMAN

27th Senate District

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STAY HOME.

STOP THE SPREAD.

SAVE LIVES.