

NEWS FROM

NEW YORK STATE SENATOR
BRAD HOYLMAN
(D) 27TH SENATE DISTRICT



Dear Neighbor:

I'm sure you share my severe disappointment at the shameful news of yet another leader of the state legislature arrested on public corruption charges. I assure you I will continue to speak out and fight for reforms that completely eliminate outside conflicts of interest for legislators, end the so-called "LLC loophole" that allows corporations to contribute unlimited amounts to candidates for state office, and institute public financing of elections. In the absence of wholesale ethics reforms, I'm pleased the U.S. Attorney continues his focus on Albany.

In the meantime, my work in other areas continues. You'll find below an update on my efforts in Albany and across the 27th Senate District, including news of my efforts to ensure New York State starts leading on climate change, my legislation to place a moratorium on a dangerous pesticide, and the status of the Child Victims Act and strengthening our rent laws.

As always, please contact me at [212-633-8052](tel:212-633-8052) or hoylman@nysenate.gov if you have any questions or comments or ideas about how I might be helpful.

All best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brad".

Brad Hoylman
State Senator
27th District



We Need State Action to Combat Climate Change

As the Ranking Member of the Senate Environmental Conservation Committee, I will be conducting a public forum on New York's efforts to combat man-made climate change on Tuesday, May 19, 9 - 11 a.m. in Albany. The purpose is to hear from scientific experts, environmental advocates, and New York residents and businesses impacted by climate change about the progress of New York State's Climate Action Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. For more information, or to sign up to attend the forum, see the notice [here](#) or contact Burton Phillips at 518-455-2451 or phillips@nysenate.gov.

New York's attempts to develop policies and procedures to address climate change have been hampered in part by Senate Republicans. Last month, I called out Senate Republicans for omitting any reference to climate change from their resolution commemorating Earth Day, which the Republican leadership said was intentional because they question the science behind global warming. You can see my remarks on the floor [here](#) and a news story on how Senate Republicans deny the existence of climate change [here](#).

Proposing a Moratorium on a Dangerous Pesticide

Also on Earth Day, I announced legislation that would place a statewide moratorium on the sale, distribution or use of products that contain glyphosate, a widely-used pesticide recently deemed "probably carcinogenic to humans" by the World Health Organization (WHO). Glyphosate is the main ingredient in the popular Monsanto weed-killer Roundup, which is currently sold in stores throughout New York State. The WHO research suggests it would be prudent to protect New Yorkers by halting sales of Roundup until its safety is proven. Roundup is also responsible for the decimation of the habitat of native insect species, most notably the monarch butterfly, which is in steep decline. Please see news of my proposal [here](#).



Strengthening the Rent Laws

On April 25, I appeared at the Stuyvesant Town-Peter Cooper Village (ST-PCV) Tenants Association meeting with Borough President Gale Brewer, Assembly Member Brian Kavanagh, and Council Member Dan Garodnick to discuss efforts to strengthen New York's rent regulations, which are set to expire on June 15. In my remarks, I said Democrats should leverage the desire of Senate Republicans to renew the 421-a tax abatement program for real estate developers to strengthen the rent laws.

I will continue to collaborate with City Hall and my colleagues in government on a strategy to renew and strengthen the rent laws, including repealing vacancy and luxury decontrol. In the meantime, a coalition of tenant rights and labor organizations has announced a rally at Foley Square (corner of Centre and Worth Streets) and march across the Brooklyn Bridge in support of strengthening the rent laws on Thursday, May 14, 5 p.m. Call Tenants & Neighbors at 212-608-4320 (ext 316) or the Metropolitan Council on Housing at 212-979-6238 for more information.

Protect Kids from Tanning Beds

Last week, I introduced a bill to ban all minors from using indoor tanning beds, which research shows to be linked to melanoma in young people. My legislation, which is supported by the American Cancer Society, would close a loophole in New York that permits 17-year-olds to use indoor tanning beds with parental permission. According to an analysis of more than 20 studies by the WHO's International Agency for Research on Cancer, risk of melanoma is [increased by 75 percent when the use of tanning devices starts before age 30](#). Another study found that the risk of cancer [increases 15 percent every four times one visits a tanning salon](#). Read news about my new bill [here](#).



Thanks for Attending my Earth Day Open House

I was very happy to greet many friends and neighbors at my office Earth Day Open House this year, including U.S. Congressman Jerry Nadler, Council Member Dan Garodnick and representatives from New York State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli's office, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Environmental Advocates of New York, FDNY, the Nature Conservancy and members of the anti-fracking movement United for Action (pictured above). I continue to seek your ideas on how New York State can lead on environmental issues, so please share your thoughts with me at hoylman@nysenate.gov.

Forcing a Vote on Child Sexual Abuse Legislation

On April 22, as the prime sponsor of the Child Victims Act, I filed a motion to force a vote in the Senate Codes Committee on this important bill that would eliminate the statute of limitations for civil and criminal child sexual abuse cases and create a one-year window for survivors to retroactively bring cases forward. New York has one of the most restrictive statute of limitations for sex crimes against children, which has allowed numerous predators to go unprosecuted, denied survivors their day in court and allowed some abusers to remain in contact with kids. I'm grateful to Assembly sponsor Margaret Markey for her ongoing leadership on the Child Victims Act and the courageous survivors and religious and educational leaders who came to Albany last month to share their personal stories with my colleagues in the legislature. See my full statement [here](#).



Parity for Baby-Changing Tables

Dads, have you ever had to change your kid’s diapers in the sink or on the floor because there wasn’t a baby-changing table in the men’s restroom? Me too. To help address this disparity in baby-changing facilities and correct the gender bias that suggests moms are solely responsible for diaper duty, I introduced legislation last month to establish equal access to baby-changing stations in male and female restrooms. You can read more about my bill [here](#).

New Impetus to Ban “Conversion Therapy” in New York State

Last month, President Obama announced his support for state legislation banning the discredited practice of so-called “conversion therapy” on minors, whereby state-licensed professionals attempt to change the sexual orientation of young people generally with harmful and sometimes disastrous results. Last week, under the leadership of Assembly Member Deborah Glick, the New York bill prohibiting this practice, of which I am the prime Senate co-sponsor, passed the New York State Assembly, 94-23 with bipartisan support. Just today, the U.S. Supreme Court has turned away a challenge to New Jersey's ban. I’m hopeful these developments will help create momentum to bring my legislation to the Senate floor for a vote. Please see my full statement on the President’s announcement [here](#) and the Assembly’s passage of our legislation [here](#).



Eradicating AIDS in NY by 2020

Last week, I was honored to appear at the LGBT Community Center with Governor Cuomo and members of the Ending the Epidemic Task Force established in support of Governor Cuomo’s

plan to end the AIDS epidemic in the state by 2020. The Task Force, which was made up of key stakeholders representing public and private industry, and community leaders who are experts in the field of HIV/AIDS, presented the Governor with its blueprint to achieve his ambitious goals. You can read the 2015 blueprint [here](#). As a member of the public official advisory committee of the Task Force, I look forward to working with the Governor, my colleagues in the legislature and members of the Task Force to implement the recommendations put forth by this bold plan, including fighting for full-funding for HIV/AIDS prevention and education programs and passage of the Gender Expression Nondiscrimination Act (GENDA), which would provide civil rights protections for transgender people who are at risk of severe discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations in many parts of the state.

Touchdown! NFL No Longer a “Non Profit”

I’m pleased by the decision last month by the National Football League, headquartered in our Senate district, to voluntarily relinquish its tax exempt status and begin paying its fair share of state and federal taxes. It defied common sense that an organization with \$10 billion in annual revenue and a chief executive paid \$44 million a year -- more than most Fortune 500 companies -- would be considered a nonprofit entity. Last October, I wrote a letter to NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell requesting that the league surrender its non-profit status and subsequently introduced legislation with Assembly Member Deborah Glick to accomplish the same. The NFL is in good company. Both the NBA and Major League Baseball gave up their non-profit status before being required to do so by the state and federal government. You can read an op-ed I wrote about the topic [here](#).

Calling for Stronger MTA Funding through Move NY Fair Plan

Last week, I joined a dozen of my colleagues in writing to Governor Andrew Cuomo, Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos, and Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie asking them to support the “Move NY Fair Plan.” This plan would more equitably distribute toll costs for drivers on Manhattan’s bridge crossings, and would generate over \$1 billion per year for public transit, thus helping to close the gap in the MTA’s capital plan. In our letter, we asked that revenue from this plan be used to conduct Full Line Reviews across the entire subway system at least every five years, and that recommended improvements be quickly implemented. Full Line Reviews have led to measurable improvements on the F, L, and G lines, such as more frequent service and countdown clocks. A review is currently underway on the A and C lines. At the current pace, reviewing the entire system would take 20 years. Thanks to Senator Daniel Squadron for coordinating this effort. Please see our letter [here](#).

Health of the Hudson River Event - June 4

As Ranking Member of the Senate’s Environmental Conservation Committee, I am pleased to present a special panel discussion on the Health of the Hudson to take place on Thursday, June 4, 6:30-8:30 p.m., School of Visual Arts Theater at 333 West 23rd Street (between 8th and 9th Avenues). I’ll be joined by experts in the field who will discuss the state of the Hudson River, the mounting challenges it faces, and what we must do to preserve it for years to come. Panelists include: Daniel Raichel, Staff Attorney for Natural Resources Defense Council; Paul Gallay, President of Hudson Riverkeeper, and Hayley Carlock, Environmental Attorney for Scenic Hudson. This event is free and open to the public. Please RSVP by calling 212-633-8052 or by emailing hoylman@nysenate.gov. You can print the flyer [here](#).

Pedestrian Improvements at Lincoln Square Bow Tie

Last month, I joined Congressman Jerry Nadler, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, and Council Member Helen Rosenthal in writing to the NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) to commend them on the proposed Lincoln Square Bow Tie Pedestrian Improvements on Broadway and Columbus Avenue between 62nd and 66th Streets. Our letter also echoed the modifications that CB7 suggested in its March resolution, which includes correcting the ponding in the area and ensuring a more robust and permanent delineation of the bicycle route between 67th and 64th Streets. Additionally, we recommended the installation of a leading pedestrian interval at the corner of 65th Street and Columbus Avenue, which has proven to be exceedingly dangerous. This is one of the most dangerous areas for pedestrians in the city, and our constituents have expressed serious concerns about these intersections. We thank the DOT for addressing this problem and their willingness to work so closely with the local community throughout this process. Please see our letter [here](#).

Rent Freeze Workshop at Westbeth - May 6

Please join me, Assembly Member Deborah Glick, and the Westbeth Artists Residents Council for a Senior and Disability Rent Freeze Workshop on Wednesday, May 6, 5-7 p.m. in the Westbeth Community Room, located at 55 Bethune Street. If you are 62 or older, live in a rent-regulated building, and make under \$50,000 per year, you may qualify to have your rent frozen under the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) program. If you receive disability benefits, you may qualify for the Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE). Join us to see if you qualify and sign up. The event is co-sponsored by Congressman Jerry Nadler, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, Council Member Corey Johnson, and Community Board 2. See a flyer for more details [here](#) or call me for more details at 212-633-8052.

Nominate a GVSHP "Business of the Month"

The Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation (GVSHHP) seeks to support independent businesses with its "Business of the Month" program. Each month, a local business in Greenwich Village, the East Village, or NoHo is featured on the GVSHHP website, blog, and social media, reaching thousands of local residents. GVSHHP highlights what makes the business so special and why locals love it. It's a great way to draw attention to our retail treasures and increase their patronage and support. To nominate a small business, visit www.gvshp.org/smbus or contact Karen Loew at kloew@gvshp.org or 212-475-9585 x33, and please see the flyer for more information [here](#).

Appeal the New Draft FEMA Flood Zone Maps

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is currently updating its Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for New York City. These FIRMs are expected to show a dramatic expansion of the 100-year floodplain, which will include more than 400,000 New York residents. If your property is located within this expanded 100-year floodplain and you have a federally backed mortgage, or if you have received federal disaster aid, you will be legally required to buy flood insurance when the maps go into effect (sometime after 2016). You can read about these changes, identify your flood risk, and determine whether you have to buy flood insurance at floodhelpNY.org. The FIRMs are now in a 90-day appeal period, which will stretch until June 28, 2015. If you believe your property has been incorrectly mapped into the floodplain, you may submit an appeal to FEMA. An appeal must be based on scientific or technical errors in FEMA's

methodology. To find out how to submit an appeal, please visit FEMA's website at www.region2costal.com/appeal. You can also learn more at www.nyc.gov/floodmaps.

Free Summer Prep for High School Admissions Test

Every fall, tens of thousands of eighth and ninth graders take the Specialized High School Admissions Test for access to top tier public high schools such as Stuyvesant, Brooklyn Tech and Bronx Science. To help increase awareness of the test and give parents and students affordable options for test preparation, Chelsea community center Hudson Guild is offering a free test prep camp. The camp will run every weekday, 10a.m. - 4p.m., from July 13 through August 7. Lunch will also be served every day free of charge. The program is open to kids in sixth through ninth grades, and admission will be offered on a first come, first served basis. Seats are limited, and interested parents should contact Ted Teng at 212-760-9800 ext. 3035 for registration information.