

# NEWS FROM

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



## February 2015

Dear Neighbor:

Below is an update on my work in Albany and across the 27th Senate District, including news about my recent efforts to increase funding for homeless youth shelters in the state budget so kids are no longer forced to sleep in the streets; reform Albany by banning lawmakers' secret income; and address the public safety and quality of life concerns of NYCHA residents.

As always, please contact me at 212-633-8052 or [hoylman@nysenate.gov](mailto: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". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Brad Hoylman  
State Senator  
27th District

---



### **Campaign to Increase Funding for Homeless Youth Shelters**

On February 12, I led a rally on the steps of City Hall to launch a campaign to restore funding for homeless youth shelters in the New York State budget, along with elected officials, the Empire State Pride Agenda, the Coalition for Homeless Youth and other advocates. Our campaign, dubbed #5000TooMany, seeks to shine a light on a report by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services that showed that in 2012 there were more than 5,000 instances where kids were turned away from homeless shelters due to a lack of available beds. Since 2009, funding for homeless youth shelters has been cut by two-thirds, and the number of homeless kids who have been turned away each year from shelters across the state has skyrocketed from 573 in 2008 to 5,041 in 2012. I'm grateful for the support of my colleagues in government, including Comptroller Scott Stringer, Public Advocate Letitia James, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, Assembly Members Linda Rosenthal (who is leading the effort in the Assembly), Richard Gottfried and Felix Ortiz, and Council Members Jimmy Van Bramer, Robert Cornegy, Corey Johnson, Ben Kallos, Steve Levin, Carlos Menchaca and Rosie Mendez. Read the AP's story on our efforts [here](#).

### **Highlighting Public Safety and Quality of Life Concerns at Riis Houses**

Last Thursday, I wrote to New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) Chair and CEO Shola Olatoye regarding public safety and quality of life concerns at Jacob Riis Houses, located in my district between East 8th and 13th Streets and Avenue D and FDR Drive. Notably, there is a severe rodent infestation and inconsistent lighting that contributes to residents feeling unsafe on the grounds at night. Please see my letter urging NYCHA to address these issues [here](#).

### **Calling for a Proactive Approach to Seasonal Bar Crawls by the SLA**

On February 24, I wrote to New York State Liquor Authority (SLA) Chair Dennis Rosen to request the SLA take a proactive approach to websites and establishments that promote bar crawls that may run afoul of the Alcohol Beverage Control laws, particularly as we approach St. Patrick's Day. Seasonal bar crawls for events such as SantaCon, St. Patrick's Day and Cinco de Mayo send many intoxicated individuals

into the streets and disrupt the communities that I represent. I urge the SLA to reach out to these websites as well as the participating locations to remind them of their obligations and to ensure that any promotions comply with the law. Please see my letter [here](#).

### **Eliminating Statutes of Limitation for Child Sexual Abuse Crimes**

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, approximately 1.8 million adolescents in the country have been the victims of sexual assault. However, children often delay disclosure of sexual abuse, frequently waiting until adulthood. New York is said to be among the worst in the nation for child sex abuse statutes of limitation. Under existing law, the state has until the victim's 23rd birthday to bring criminal charges against abusers. In civil lawsuits, victims have until they are 24 years old to sue their abusers, or until age 21 to sue the organization or institution where the abuse occurred. That's why I, along with Assembly Member Margaret Markey, introduced The Child Victims Act (S.63), which amends the Penal Law by eliminating the criminal and civil statutes of limitation for sex abuse crimes committed against minors. Doing so would allow any future victims to seek criminal charges against their abuser or initiate a civil lawsuit to sue their abuser or the organization that allowed the abuse to occur at any time. The bill would also open a one-time, year-long window for past victims of child sex abuse to initiate lawsuits, regardless of when the abuse occurred.



### **Restoring Trust in State Government**

On February 9, I joined Senate Minority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and members of the Senate Democratic Conference to introduce the "Clean Up Albany" legislative package to address the ongoing ethics crisis in State Government. The package features my legislation to cap the outside income of state legislators and apply the same restrictions to Albany lawmakers that already exist for members of Congress. You can see the New York Times editorial in support of my legislation [here](#). Other bills in the package would close the loophole that allows corporate entities formed as LLCs to be treated as individuals, bar elected officials

from using campaign funds for criminal defense and personal use, and end the practice of taxpayer funded reimbursement for legal fees. Read more about the “Clean Up Albany” package [here](#).

### **Advocating for Downtown Bus Service**

Last month, I joined my government colleagues and CB2’s Traffic and Transportation Committee members to discuss downtown bus service with MTA New York City Transit (NYCT). We echoed resolutions passed by CB2 that demand restoration of routes that were cut in 2010, leaving a shortage of reliable transportation options in parts of the Village that are heavily populated with seniors. Specifically, we called for restoration of the former M1, M3, M5, and M6 routes, or equivalent service. NYCT was open to our suggestions and agreed to evaluate service. Over the coming months, we’ll continue to work with CB2 and NYCT to ensure more accessible bus service.

### **Introducing “Death With Dignity” Legislation**

The story of Brittany Maynard, a 29-year-old with terminal brain cancer who utilized Oregon’s “Death With Dignity” law last fall, has brought renewed attention to the issue of aid in dying. Last month, Senator Diane Savino and I introduced legislation to ensure that mentally-competent, terminally ill patients have the option to hasten their deaths. We can help alleviate human suffering and provide the terminally ill with a modicum of personal control by giving them more choices at the end of their lives. Our bill is similar to legislation currently in place in Oregon, Washington and Vermont. Please see the New York Times article about the need for this kind of legislation [here](#).

### **New Report on Harmful Effects of Dumping Hydrofracking Waste**

I commend the Environmental Advocates of New York for shining a light on the harmful consequences of dumping toxic and radioactive fracking waste in New York State. Thanks to the thorough review of the safety of hydraulic fracturing by the Cuomo administration, fracking will remain banned in New York State for the foreseeable future. But it’s clear that there is still more work to be done to protect New Yorkers from fracking in other states. I share the Environmental Advocates' view that New York State can and should take every possible regulatory and legislative measure to keep fracking waste out, which is why I’ve introduced legislation to ban wastewater treatment facilities and landfills from accepting fracking waste, prohibit the transportation of fracking waste through New York State, and ban the use of fracking waste on New York State highways and roads. Click [here](#) to read the Environmental Advocates of New York's full report.



### **NYC Comptroller Report on Playground Injuries**

Yesterday, I joined New York City Comptroller Scott M. Stringer, Assembly Member Linda Rosenthal, parents and advocates at the PS199 playground on the Upper West Side to highlight a report focusing on the rise of playground-related personal injury claims against the city. The report highlights unsafe conditions at numerous playgrounds across the city and shows that taxpayers pay millions of dollars a year in settlements and judgments for playground-related personal injury claims – a total of \$20,644,448 over the ten year period studied. I echo Comptroller Stringer in calling on the Department of Parks and Recreation to redouble their efforts to bring the surfaces and equipment into a state of good repair before spring arrives.

### **Expressing Concern Over the Sale of our NYCHA Housing**

On February 10, I submitted testimony to the New York City Council Public Housing Committee on the partial sale of the New York City Housing Authority's (NYCHA) Project-Based Section 8 portfolio. One of the six buildings up for sale, Campos Plaza I, is located in my district at 12th Street between Avenues B and C. While I understand the dire financial situation of NYCHA and the immediate need for substantial repairs, I am concerned that selling a significant stake in Campos I to a private developer is the start of an alternate road to privatization, and that this may set a precedent for the permanent sale of our public housing stock. I echoed the concerns raised by myself, Council Member Rosie Mendez, Assembly Member Brian Kavanagh and Borough President Gale Brewer in a letter sent to Chair and CEO Shola Olatoye on Monday, February 9. For further information, please see our letter and my testimony [here](#).

### **Community Education Council Seats Open for 2015-2017**

Community Education Councils (CECs) allow for parent involvement at the district level and play an essential role in shaping education policies for NYC public schools. The deadline for applying is March 11, 2015. To read more about joining a CEC or please see the flyer [here](#) or watch the video [here](#).

### **Summer Internships with DDC**

This summer, the New York City Department and Design Construction (DDC) will be hosting two internship programs designed for high school and college students interested in pursuing careers in architecture, engineering, building trades, public administration, business administration and information technology. DDC builds many of the civic facilities New Yorkers use every day. As the City's primary capital construction project manager, they provide communities with new or renovated structures such as firehouses, libraries, police precincts, courthouses and senior centers. For more information, internship applications and instructions for submission please see the flyer [here](#).

### **Volunteer for the 2015 Tree Census: Trees Count!**

This spring, join New York City's Department of Parks & Recreation for the "Trees Count!" 2015 Tree Census, the largest street tree inventory in the nation. The Tree Census began in 1995, when a survey of 498,470 trees launched new tree maintenance programs. In 2005, the count of 592,130 trees led to the development of MillionTreesNYC. This spring, volunteers and Parks staff will count and record information on every one of the city's street trees once more. Beginning in May 2015, NYC Parks and partnering organizations will be hosting training events in every borough throughout New York City. You can also sign up online and view a 30-minute video tutorial. Please visit <http://www.nycgovparks.org/trees/treescount> or call 311 for more information.

### **Volunteer with Behind the Book to Improve Public School Literacy**

Behind the Book is a non-profit organization that brings accomplished authors and their books into underserved K-12 classrooms in New York City, building literacy skills and creating a community of engaged readers and writers. The organization is seeking volunteers who will be tasked with coaching and encouraging students as they craft stories, research and create artwork for their unique classroom projects. No experience is necessary, and the time commitment is limited to a few hours during the school day for as many sessions in a program as volunteers choose. Join Behind the Book's volunteer team by visiting their website at [www.behindthebook.org](http://www.behindthebook.org) and filling out a brief questionnaire or email [volunteer@behindthebook.org](mailto:volunteer@behindthebook.org) for more information.

### **Free CPR Training from Lenox Hill HealthPlex**

The Lenox Hill HealthPlex is offering free CPR training classes. Classes will be conducted by Lenox Hill staff at the HealthPlex Saturday March 7 from 10 am - 2 pm; Tuesday March 10 from 6 -10 pm; Saturday March 14 from 10 am – 2 pm; and Monday March 23 from 6 -10 pm. Classes are limited to 15 participants. If interested,

please RSVP to [wkawadler@nshs.edu](mailto:wkawadler@nshs.edu) or call 347-802-7400. For more information, please see the flyer [here](#).

**Funding Available from NY Rising Community Center Program**

The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) has announced \$40 million to establish a network of resilient community-run, neighborhood-based recovery centers where local residents may access ongoing services, as well as gather and obtain information in the instance of a disaster. As part of the program, GOSR will make on-site capital improvements to harden existing community facilities, and fund community-based organizations to expand recovery services. The undertaking, which will be piloted at approximately 36 facilities in 10 New York City communities, including Lower Manhattan, is the result of community engagement and planning as completed through GOSR's grassroots NY Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) Program. Interested facility operators and community-based organizations have until March 11, 2015, to formally respond to GOSR's NY Rising Community Center Notices of Funding Availability (NOFA), which are posted at <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/procurement-opportunities>. For more information, visit <http://on.ny.gov/1A9Mte4>.