

# NEWS FROM

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



Dear Friend:

Today, we rejoice in the decision by the U.S. Supreme Court guaranteeing the constitutional right to same-sex marriage. As a gay husband and father, I'm extremely proud to be an American today. Today's Supreme Court decision affirms the legal, cultural and social validity of families like mine throughout the entire country. (You can read my full statement [here](#).)

To celebrate, I invite you to walk down Fifth Avenue with my family and me in this Sunday's PRIDE march. We're meeting at 11:30 am at the corner of 39<sup>th</sup> Street between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenues (for more details and to R.S.V.P. [click here](#)).

I'm less proud of Albany. Last night, the 2015 New York State legislative session staggered to conclusion, marking the end to what surely was one of the most ignominious years in the history of the legislature. The session was marked by scandal (the arrest of the leaders of both the Senate and Assembly earlier this year), a lack of focus (many important issues remain unaddressed), and ongoing dysfunction (members of the legislature were forced to vote on voluminous bills they didn't even have time to read).

Overall, the results of the session were severely disappointing due to the intransigence of Senate Republicans. On Thursday evening, I [stood strong and voted against](#) an omnibus bill known as the "Big Ugly," aptly named because it was a smorgasbord of unattractive, half-baked legislative ideas rushed to the Senate floor in areas ranging from rent regulations to public education.

With this difficult political environment, I'm especially pleased to report some important victories:

- **Protecting Domestic Violence Victims** - My bill to protect victims of domestic violence passed both the Senate and Assembly and is headed to the Governor's desk for his signature. The bill would require the translation of domestic violence incident reports by local and state police. This legislation was inspired by the tragic death of Deisy Garcia, who was murdered along with her two daughters by her estranged husband. Ms. Garcia had filed domestic violence reports with the police in her native Spanish but they weren't translated. You can read more about my legislation [here](#).
- **Expanding TB Testing** - Legislation I sponsored with Assembly Member Deborah Glick allowing expanded testing for tuberculosis also passed both houses and is awaiting the Governor's signature. The bill would allow registered nurses to administer TB tests without needing an order from a doctor. This comes amid recent reports of a new strain of TB called XDR-TB, which is nearly 70% fatal and highly drug-resistant. Our legislation would especially protect those with compromised immune systems, including seniors and people living with HIV/AIDS. You can read more about our legislation [here](#).
- **Protecting Nail Salon Workers** - Legislation I originally sponsored in the Senate to protect exploited nail and beauty salon workers passed both houses. A recent *New York Times* investigative [report](#) found that a litany of abhorrent labor practices were employed to take advantage of these workers, forcing them to work for sub-minimum wages with little ventilation, lack of personal protective equipment, and non-existent workers compensation coverage in

facilities that were often unlicensed to operate. My [legislation](#), also carried by Assembly Member Ron Kim, would permit the Secretary of State to shut down unlicensed salons and establish an apprenticeship trainee program to provide a path to new employment for these workers.

- Other legislation I sponsored passed the Senate by wide margins, including **expanding New York's Hate Crimes Law**, by closing a loophole that allowed the ringleader of one of the City's most savage anti-gay assaults to evade Hate Crime prosecution; **reforming New York's trademark counterfeiting laws** to help give DAs the tools they need to effectively prosecute counterfeiting crimes and combat the fact that New York City loses more than \$1 billion annually due to the sale of counterfeit goods; and **requiring organizations making state-funded capital improvements to purchase Energy Star certified appliances**, helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and lowering utility bills for consumers.

While some important legislation was addressed by the Senate, unfortunately, it failed to act on numerous important issues:

- The Republican Senate Majority once again refused to put my bill on the floor that would prohibit the practice of so-called "**gay conversion therapy**" on minors by licensed mental health professionals, despite having strong bipartisan support. As a result, this harmful practice will continue to occur in New York to the detriment of the LGBT youth who are subjected to it.
- The Senate also blocked action on the **Child Safe Products Act**, legislation to protect our children from toxic toys, which has a supermajority of cosponsors. Instead, the bill was amended to give cover to the chemical industry by weakening enforcement provisions and giving manufacturers the right to exempt themselves from oversight if they have a self-policing program. Because of these unacceptable amendments, I withdrew my support of the amended bill and have introduced legislation to accomplish the original goals of the Child Safe Products Act.
- The Senate Majority also failed to pass many other progressive priorities, all of which I co-sponsor, including: the **Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA)**, which would outlaw discrimination against transgender New Yorkers; the **DREAM Act**, which would allow children of undocumented immigrants to qualify for financial aid; legislation to provide working families with **Paid Family Leave** benefits; the enactment of **comprehensive campaign finance reform** to limit the influence of money in politics; legislation which would enact **tougher ethics standards** for public officials; and other crucial issues.
- **Perhaps most importantly, the Republican Senate rejected an Assembly proposal to strengthen rent regulations**, instead choosing to largely maintain the status quo for four more years while allowing tenants to continue to be victimized by rising rents, abusive landlords, and other onerous barriers to affordable housing in New York City. The final end-of-session omnibus agreement also only extended **mayoral control** of New York City schools for one year, a temporary measure which will only cause more uncertainty regarding the Mayor's prerogative to exercise home rule and reform struggling schools.

There is clearly much more work to do. This session, while disappointing in many respects, has only strengthened my resolve to continue to fight for change in Albany.

I'd love to hear your thoughts by return email or at [212-633-8052](tel:212-633-8052).

All best,

*Brad*

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