



June 18, 2025

Greetings –

The Assembly adjourned late last night after several intensive days of debate and voting.

Three of my bills passed both houses of the Legislature and will now be sent to the Governor for her signature and enactment into law:

The Creation of a Center for Dyslexia and Dysgraphia (A.2687/S.5569)

Since being elected to the Assembly in 2016, I have spearheaded multiple efforts to address New York's childhood literacy crisis and the special challenges facing children with dyslexia and their families. The passage of [A.2687/S.5569](#), which will establish a Center for Dyslexia and Dysgraphia within the State Department of Education, marks a true breakthrough. This Center will create a statewide approach to solving one of our most challenging educational issues. Giving our schools and teachers the knowledge to identify students with dyslexia and dysgraphia and the training to provide appropriate interventions like structured literacy will be life changing for countless children. The Center's mandate will include setting standards for the screening of students in grades kindergarten through five and for interventions, setting standards for professional development for educators and other school personnel, creating a guidebook for educators, data collection and analysis, and promoting public awareness. Enshrining the Center in law means best practices will be maintained over time. It was one of the fourteen recommendations of the State Task Force on Dyslexia and Dysgraphia that was created pursuant to legislation I authored and passed. I also secured \$250,000 in the State budget earlier this year to make sure the Center has necessary funding to start its work.

Prohibiting Rent Minimums in Mortgages (A.174/S.1163)

My bill, [A.174/S.1163](#), will help small businesses by eliminating the practice of lenders requiring minimum rents in the properties they hold mortgages on. The economics for small businesses in New York were only made more difficult by COVID-19 and vacant storefronts remain widespread. For New York's small business sector and commercial corridors to prosper, it is critical for commercial rents to be reduced. Eliminating the minimum rent requirement for borrowers will give landlords the flexibility to rent properties at a lower rate and not risk penalties or defaulting.

In State Tuition for Team USA Athletes (A.761/S.8220)

My bill [A.761/S.8220](#) makes Team USA athletes training for the Olympics in New York eligible for in-state tuition at SUNY and CUNY schools. This bill intends to keep New York competitive with states such as California, Colorado, and Utah that already provide in-state tuition to Team USA Olympic athletes in training. Offering this benefit will increase the likelihood that elite American athletes will choose to study in New York while they continue their training.

Co-Sponsored Legislation - Environment

There were also important bills passed that I was proud to co-sponsor and vote for. Among these were two good environmental bills: [A.8888/S.8417](#) ending the current utility subsidy for gas hook-ups (i.e. the elimination of the “hundred foot rule”) and [A.4997/S.4289](#) protecting horseshoe crabs.

The passage of [A.8888/S.8417](#) is a significant step forward in moving us from reliance on fossil fuels to renewable energy. Hopefully next year, the Legislature will pass a bill with more elements of the NY Heat Act to more comprehensively address the phasing out of gas infrastructure. I have also been strongly in favor of the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act ([A.1749/S.1464](#)), which would have led to a reduction in the vast quantities of waste produced that cannot be recycled and the resulting environmental harm caused, and I am disappointed that this bill did not pass.

On a positive note, [A.4997/S.4289](#), which protects horseshoe crabs passed both houses of the legislature. This legislation will extend the ability of the Department of Environmental Conservation to regulate the taking of horseshoe crabs, including unnecessary harvesting for biomedical research, which can now be done using synthetic substitutes. Horseshoe crabs are an integral part of the marine ecosystem especially vital to many bird species, and their population is threatened by over harvesting.

Criminal Justice

The legislature passed an omnibus bill ([A.8871/S.8451](#)) to improve transparency and oversight in the prison system. It will increase the coverage of security cameras in prisons, permit the Correctional Association of New York to conduct an inspection of any state correctional facility, require that the State Commission of Corrections conduct a study on the deaths in state correctional facilities, and expand the collection of evidence during autopsies of incarcerated individuals.

While this bill includes meaningful measures for improving safety for incarcerated individuals, it does not do enough to reform New York’s often inhumane prison and criminal

justice system. I am a co-sponsor and longtime advocate for both the Elder Parole Act ([A.514/S.454](#)) and the Fair & Timely Parole Act ([A.127/S.159](#)) and I am disappointed that neither passed the legislature. I am committed to continuing to support these and other prison reform initiatives.

Protecting Immigrants and Due Process

The Legislature did not act on New York for All ([A.3506/S.2235](#)), legislation intended to protect immigrants by prohibiting state and local authorities from collaborating with ICE and using resources to facilitate the work of ICE. I strongly support this legislation and believe the Legislature should reconvene to pass this bill.

The federal government is pursuing a cruel and misguided deportation agenda intended to provoke fear in immigrant communities and we have seen ICE acting throughout the country with no regard for due process. ICE has been authorized to act with contempt and violence not only towards immigrants and their families, but also towards those standing up for them. In recent weeks, we have witnessed ICE aggressively apprehending a US Senator from California, the Mayor of Newark, staff of US Congressman Jerry Nadler, and Brad Lander, our New York City Comptroller.

In New York City, immigrants attempting to follow the law, are being detained when showing-up for their court hearings. While there are limits on what we can do as a State to counteract federal policy this is not an excuse for inaction. We should do what is in our capacity to ensure that compassion and justice prevail. Tearing families apart and failure to follow due process should concern all of us.

If you have any concerns about any legislative or community issue, please email me at carrollr@nyassembly.gov or call (718) 788-7221.

-Bobby

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