



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I co-chaired the budget oversight hearing for the People with Disabilities Committee this week and questioned Commissioner Kerri Neifeld of the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities on the issues impacting New Yorkers with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). Hundreds of advocates filled the War Room outside the Governor's Office to rally for the vital workforce of direct support professionals to have wage parity with State workers.

New laws I cosponsored in the Assembly are taking effect to protect consumers from surprise credit card surcharges and to allow grieving families the option to terminate a lease early for a deceased tenant.

As a reminder our office is closed this Monday, February 19, in observance of the legal State government holiday Presidents Day.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to our community office if we can be of assistance.

Phone: 212.288.4607

Email: SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov

Sincerely,

REBECCA A. SEAWRIGHT

Seawright Cochaired Hearing With Oversight of People with Disabilities State Budgetary Needs



Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright focused her line of questioning for the New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) on the crisis of disinvestment of the Direct Support Professional workforce putting New Yorkers in harms way. Part one of her remarks can be viewed by clicking the above image.



Part two of Assembly Member Seawright's questioning of Commissioner Neifeld can be viewed by clicking the above image.

Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright Rallied with Disability Advocates for Increased Wages for Direct Support Professionals in the State Budget



"Hundreds of disability advocates filled the Capitol because we are on the precipice of a crisis. Not-for-profit providers are hemorrhaging workers because of unfair wages and a soaring cost of living. We are renewing our fight for these Direct Support Professional workers who are a lifeline for people living with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Without them, people would be in danger of losing their right to autonomy. Together, we will fight for a 3.2% COLA and the Direct Support Wage Enhancement bill to support the recruitment and retention of this vital workforce," said Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright.

Seawright Joined Parent and Family Advocates, Non-Profits and Self Advocates to Provide State Budget Updates and Advocacy Support



Assembly Member Seawright joined The Arc for its annual Joint Legislative & Advocacy Forum to provide updates on the Assembly Budget, upcoming legislation, and advocacy strategies. Parents and family members, self-advocates, direct support professionals, not-for-profit agencies, and other stakeholders joined to bring their strong advocacy and input to the budget process.



Chairs of the Assembly and Senate People with Disability Committees, Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright and Senator John Mannion discuss the Direct Support Wage Enhancement legislation that will provide a \$4,000 per year, per worker wage increase.



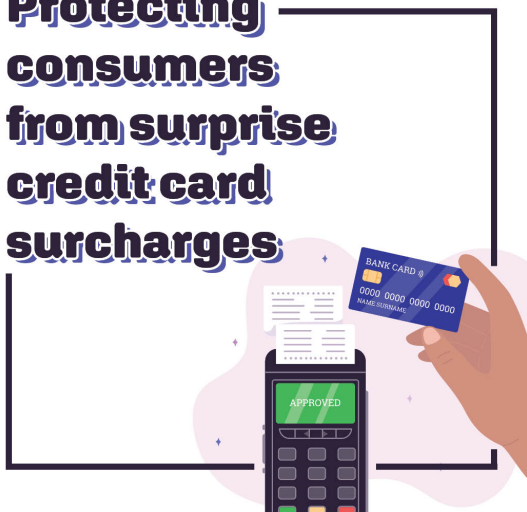
Direct support professionals thank Assembly Member Seawright for her support in fighting for more funding in the budget for people with disabilities.

**Congratulations to CUNY Adaptive Program on Their First Win
Against a Division One Level Program, The University of
Missouri**



New Consumer Protection Signed into Law

Protecting consumers from surprise credit card surcharges



A new law has taken effect that Assembly Member Seawright cosponsored and strongly supported to help ensure transparency and fairness in credit card usage transactions, helping to safeguard New Yorkers from undue financial stress (Ch. 723 of 2023). There have been far too many instances where someone expects to pay one price only to be hit with a surprise fee for choosing to pay with a credit card. This type of bait and switch makes it difficult for people to budget. The new law will require merchants to transparently and prominently display the price of credit card transactions. It also prohibits them from imposing a surcharge higher than what the credit card company charges the seller. This allows small businesses to recoup those costs while protecting consumers.

Tenant Protection Signed into Law

As families mourn the passing of a loved one, they should not have to worry about incurring financial debt. A new law now in effect provides grieving families the option to terminate a deceased tenant's lease upon notice to the landlord (Ch. 632 of 2023).

*Relieving
grieving families
of financial burdens*

Consider Our Office A Resource

Free Tax Return Preparation for Qualifying Taxpayers

Tax Filing Assistance is Available for Qualifying New Yorkers!



Need help doing your taxes? The IRS's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs offer free basic tax return preparation for seniors and other qualifying taxpayers. For more information or to see if you are eligible for these services, please visit www.irs.gov/individuals/free-tax-return-preparation-for-qualifying-taxpayers.

STATE  **WIDE**

New York StateWide Senior Action Council, Inc
275 State Street, Albany, NY 12210 • 800-333-4374 • Fax 518-436-7642
www.nysenior.org

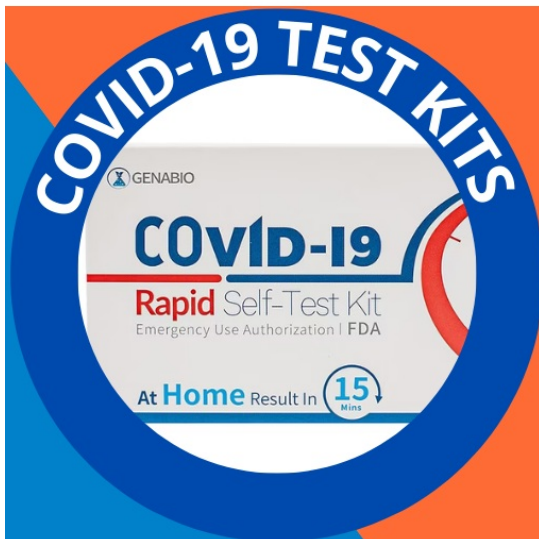
Patient's Rights Helpline

StateWide has a toll-free number to assist patients and their families with their rights. This valuable service was established forty years ago when hospital payment policies began seeing patients discharged quicker and sicker to maximize reimbursement.

[Read More](#)

**Rebecca
Seawright**
ASSEMBLY MEMBER

**NO-COST
THURSDAY
PPE
GIVEAWAY**



12:00PM-2:00PM

**COMMUNITY OFFICE
1485 YORK AVENUE
(78/79 STREETS)**

212-288-4607

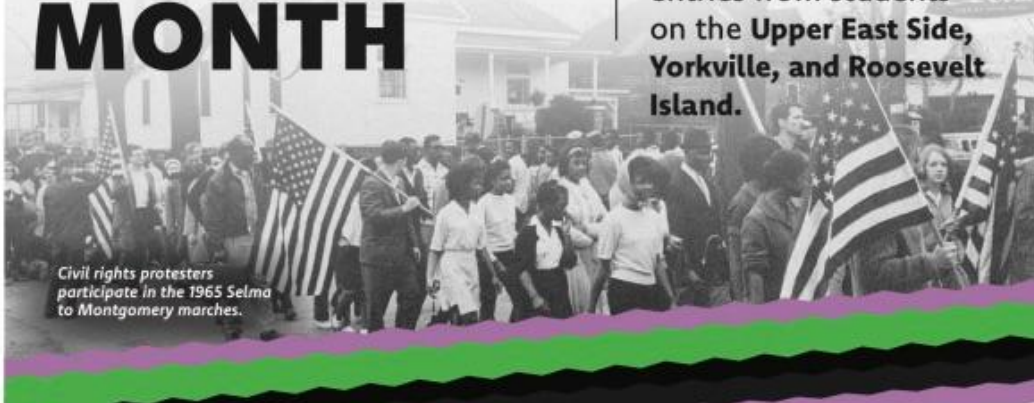
**SEAWRIGHTR
@NYASSEMBLY.GOV**

FEBRUARY IS NATIONAL

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

**Assembly Member
Rebecca A. Seawright**

is sponsoring a National Black History Month essay contest, with awards going to the top entries from students on the **Upper East Side, Yorkville, and Roosevelt Island.**



Civil rights protesters participate in the 1965 Selma to Montgomery marches.

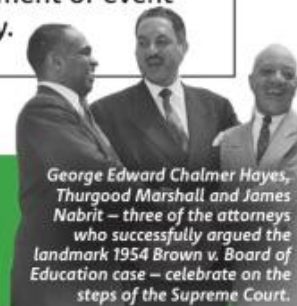
ESSAY CONTEST

Tell us about a Black American who stood up to injustice or broke down barriers. Or tell us about a significant moment or event that helped shape American history.



Send your essay by 02/29/24 to:

Assembly Member Rebecca A. Seawright
1485 York Avenue
New York, NY 10075
212-288-4607, seawright@nyassembly.gov



George Edward Chalmer Hayes, Thurgood Marshall and James Nabrit – three of the attorneys who successfully argued the landmark 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* case – celebrate on the steps of the Supreme Court.

Community Board Applications Are Now Open!

Prospective members must submit a biography or resume and complete a comprehensive online application explaining why they want to join the board, what skills they offer, and their relationship to their districts. These applications are reviewed and evaluated by an independent screening panel. Qualified applicants are interviewed on the panel's recommendation by staff members of the Manhattan Borough President's office. [Click here to apply!](#)

Upcoming Events

Community Board 8

Please join

The Small Business Committee

&

NYC COMPTROLLER BRAD LANDER

For a discussion

**SHOULD THERE BE
RENT CONTROL FOR
SMALL BUSINESSES?**

20 February 2024
6:30 p.m.

Via ZOOM

Sign in to the Zoom meeting by clicking [this link](#).

**Committee co-chairs:
Bill Angelos & Alida Camp**



Manhattan Community Board 8 Calendar

The Manhattan Community Board 8 (CB8M) represents the Upper East Side of Manhattan and Roosevelt Island. CB8M is comprised of 50 volunteer members who serve as advocates and service coordinators for the community and its residents, as well as help citizens resolve municipal service delivery complaints.

CB8M reviews and makes recommendations on various issues, including applications for Zoning Text Amendments, building variances and special permits, liquor licenses, sidewalk cafes and street fairs, changes to landmarked buildings or buildings in historic districts, traffic and transportation issues, and more.

Each month, CB8M committees meet to discuss and resolve issues in the community.

Full Board Meeting - 3rd Wednesday
Land Use Committee - 2nd Wednesday
Street Life - 1st Tuesday
Transportation - 1st Wednesday
Housing - 1st Thursday
Parks - 2nd Thursday
Landmarks - 3rd Monday
Social Justice - 4th Monday
Zoning and Development - 4th Tuesday
Youth and Education - 4th Thursday

[Read More](#)

In Case You Missed It: Past Editions Of Our Community Update

[Community Update: February 9, 2024](#)

[Community Update: February 2, 2024](#)

[Community Update: January 26, 2024](#)

[Community Update: January 19, 2024](#)

[Community Update: January 12, 2024](#)

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