



Assemblymember

**Anna Kelles**

Assembly District 125



Dear Neighbors,

It's hard to believe there's only a few days left of July. Time truly does fly in the summer heat! I encourage all of you to find the time to experience our beautiful outdoor scenery and make the most of this time in the sun.

Yesterday, I joined my colleagues in the assembly urging Gov. Cuomo to extend childcare waivers across New York State. Currently under this policy, families are receiving financial support for childcare. Many families in our district will not have access to affordable childcare without this funding. Concurrently, certain businesses are already experiencing a shortage of much-needed workers. This change in funding will make it more difficult for many able-bodied individuals to return to work. Affordable childcare is essential for the health of businesses here in the 125<sup>th</sup> District and the state's economy. This is why I'm fighting to get this policy passed.



**Signed into Law!**  
**Meal Shaming Lawsuit Ban**  
**Assembly Bill A06527-A (Kelles)**

**This bill amends the education law in relation to prohibiting schools or school districts from filing a lawsuit against a student's parent or guardian for unpaid meal fees.**



**ANNA**  
**KELLES**  
Assemblymember for the 125th



Today, I'm pleased to tell you all that the Meal Shaming Lawsuit Ban was just signed into law by the Governor. As a nutritionist and an educator, I understand that the goal of education should always be the development and growth of young people, in both the classroom and the lunchroom. This bill supports that goal by preventing families from being publicly shamed and sued by schools over unpaid meal debt.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to share with you an important update from the New York State Department of Labor. On September 5, 2021, several Federal unemployment benefit programs will be expiring across the country, per Federal law. The programs set to expire are:

- Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)
- Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)
- Extended Benefits (EB)
- \$300 Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC)

The NYSDOL has begun reaching out to claimants through email and text informing them of what program they are currently enrolled in and whether they are eligible to continue receiving benefits after the Federal benefit expiration date. If you have any questions about these programs or need assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to our office. My staff would be happy to help in any way that we can.

**Lastly**, addressing the recent updates from the CDC regarding the Covid-19 delta variant. In areas with "substantial" or "high" coronavirus transmission, the CDC now recommends individuals continue to wear a mask indoors, regardless of vaccination status. While neither Cortland nor Tompkins county have reached that rate of transmission, this serves as an important reminder that we are still in a pandemic. We encourage anyone who is eligible to please consider getting vaccinated, to wash your hands for at least twenty seconds, wear a mask indoors if you are not vaccinated, and to stay home if you are experiencing any flu-like symptoms. I've seen the strength and persistence of this community this past year, I know that if we all do our part, we can emerge from this pandemic stronger than when we entered.

In good health,



Anna Kelles, Ph.D.

Assemblymember, 125th A.D.

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