



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Andrew Gounardes

# **Sen. Gounardes: A Safe Subway is Crucial to New York's Future**

[Andrew Gounardes](#)

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*New York State Senator Andrew Gounardes issued the following statement today in response to Governor Kathy Hochul's State of the State proposals to increase subway safety:*

"It really cannot be overstated: the subway is the lifeblood of New York City. Even though traveling by transit is still the safest, best way to get around, recent high-profile incidents understandably have many New Yorkers feeling uneasy. Everyone deserves to feel safe while they travel. It's time for us to have a renewed focus on subway safety, including by ensuring New Yorkers suffering from homelessness and mental illness get the support they need.

"[Three years ago](#), I called for improved lighting in subway stations, as well as the opening of crisis intervention centers directly in key stations, with appropriate staff to offer direct assistance to those in need right away. These important proposals were echoed by the governor in her speech today. We also need to invest in modern fare gates to stop fare evasion, platform barriers to prevent people from being pushed onto the tracks, and long-term compassionate care for those suffering from mental illness.

"The start of congestion pricing represents a unique opportunity. If we want New Yorkers to shift away from private cars, we owe it to them to offer a world-class

public transit system that's reliable, accessible, and most importantly: safe. But this opportunity won't last forever. The time to act is now."

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