



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Anna M. Kaplan

## Lawmakers Pass Legislation to Protect Immigrants from Coercion and Extortion

SEAN ROSS COLLINS June 3, 2021

| ISSUE: **DIVERSITY & INCLUSION, IMMIGRATION RIGHTS, IMMIGRATION DISCRIMINATION, PUBLIC SAFETY, HUMAN RIGHTS**



**JUNE 3, 2021 (Albany, NY)** – Today, the New York State Senate passed legislation aimed at protecting vulnerable immigrant New Yorkers from those who would threaten to reveal an individual's immigration status for the purpose of blackmail, following passage by the State Assembly earlier this week.

The bill, [A.3412-A/S.343-A](#), introduced by **Assembly Member Michaelle Solages** (D-Elmont) and **State Senator Anna M. Kaplan** (D-North Hills), would amend the laws on extortion and coercion to also include making threats to report a person's immigration status or otherwise cause deportation proceedings to be brought against an individual.

"The threat of deportation is very serious to undocumented immigrants, which makes them particularly vulnerable to extortion or coercion," said **Assemblymember Solages**. "Too often, that vulnerability is exploited by unscrupulous actors. This legislation would protect these individuals and their families from having their immigration status used as leverage against them."

**Senator Anna M. Kaplan** said "for an undocumented immigrant who fled danger in their home country, being reported to ICE can be a death sentence, yet sadly, far too many people are willing to take advantage of our more vulnerable neighbors by threatening to reveal their immigration status in order to exploit them in some way. By passing this long-overdue measure, we're updating the laws on extortion and coercion to ensure that immigrant New Yorkers aren't left vulnerable to such vile threats."

Extortion and coercion involve compelling a person to turn over property, or to engage, or refrain from engaging, in other conduct by intimidation, including threatening to cause criminal charges to be instituted against them. This legislation amends the Penal Law definitions of "extortion" and "coercion" to also include making threats for such purposes as to cause deportation proceedings to be brought against an individual, thereby making it a criminal offense to coerce or extort an individual through threats of deportation.

The bill passed the Senate by a vote of 48 to 14, following passage in the Assembly where it succeeded by a vote of 106 to 41. The bill will now be sent to Governor Andrew Cuomo for his consideration. If the Governor signs the bill into law, it will take effect 30 days after

enactment.

Similar measures have been enacted in California, Colorado, Maryland and Virginia.

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#### RELATED LEGISLATION

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## 2021-S343A

Immigration, immigration rights, Coercion

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- Introduced
- - In Committee Assembly
  - In Committee Senate
- - On Floor Calendar Assembly
  - On Floor Calendar Senate
- - Passed Assembly
  - Passed Senate
- Delivered to Governor
- Signed By Governor
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Relates to extortion or coercion related to immigration status or suspected immigration status

December 29, 2020

Senate Floor Calendar

Sponsored by [Anna M. Kaplan](#)

Do you support this bill?