



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Michael Gianaris

## Senate Deputy Leader Gianaris, Governor Kathy Hochul Together Highlight NY HERO Act

MICHAEL GIANARIS September 9, 2021

| ISSUE: NY HERO ACT, ESSENTIAL WORKERS, COVID-19, WORKPLACE SAFETY, CORONAVIRUS



NEW YORK – Senate Deputy Leader Michael Gianaris was joined by Governor Kathy Hochul, Assembly Member Karines Reyes, and New York State AFL-CIO President Mario Cilento for a press conference Wednesday highlighting the New York Health and Essential Rights, or NY HERO, Act. Earlier this week, Governor Hochul announced that she directed the state health department to certify covid-19 a serious risk to public health which triggers the NY HERO Act regulations.

“I am thankful Governor Hochul acted quickly to save lives and protect workers by implementing our New York HERO Act,” said **Senate Deputy Leader Michael Gianaris**. “It took too long to effectuate and too many workers have already sacrificed their health for our community’s benefit, but we can finally

recognize their efforts by giving workers the tools to protect themselves while on the job.”

The NY HERO Act, passed earlier this year by the Legislature and signed into law by the former Governor, requires the Department of Health to declare a disease, like covid-19, “a highly contagious, communicable disease that presents a serious risk of harm to public health” before the law’s protections can be implemented.

The NY HERO Act requires the Departments of Labor and Health to implement enforceable minimum standards for workplace safety. The regulations must include protocols on testing, PPE, social distancing, hand hygiene, disinfection, and engineering controls. Workers would also be given a direct role in monitoring and reporting violations through workplace health and safety committees and employees would be protected from retaliation for utilizing their rights under the law.

[Video](#) of Senator Gianaris’ remarks is available here. [Photos](#) of the press conference are available here.

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#### RELATED LEGISLATION

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## 2021-S1034B

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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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Prevents occupational exposure to an airborne infectious disease

January 06, 2021

Senate Floor Calendar

Sponsored by **Michael Gianaris**

Do you support this bill?