



Dear neighbor,

I hope you are enjoying all that summer has to offer. For many, this is a time of year for celebration, relaxation, and travel. School is out, and many students participate in camps, employment, and other activities. While summer draws many people outdoors, high temperatures often force vulnerable populations inside. Check in on your neighbors and loved ones during these times.

I want to congratulate all high school and college graduates on their successes and wish each the best in their endeavors. Hats off to students’ families, teachers, and support networks - these victories are yours. I’ve had the honor of attending and speaking at various graduation ceremonies throughout Senate District 19 and couldn’t be more proud of this new generation of New York’s leaders.

From January to June of this year, I spent many days at the State Capitol in Albany for the 2023 Legislative Session, where I represented and advocated for Senate District 19. My colleagues and I delivered a state budget that, while not perfect, realizes many of New Yorkers’ most significant priorities: solid public school funding, bolstering mental health services, expanding childcare, and combating senseless gun violence in communities across New York State. We also deliberated on a range of critical issues, from public safety to the shortage of affordable housing. I remain firmly committed to continued work on solutions to alleviate these challenges. With the close of the 2023 Legislative Session just behind us, I am proud of our accomplishments and thank my colleagues for passing much of my legislative agenda, including more than 30 bills.

Please contact my office at (718) 649-7653 or email [persaud@nysenate.gov](mailto:persaud@nysenate.gov) with questions or concerns. You can receive frequent updates on my legislative work and happenings in Senate District 19 by signing up for my weekly e-newsletter at <http://persaud.nysenate.gov>.

Sincerely,

Senator Roxanne J. Persaud  
SD-19



## 2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION WRAP-UP

### THE 2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION IN REVIEW

In the 2023 Legislative Session, Senator Persaud fought for Senate District 19 in the NYS Budget and throughout deliberations on thousands of bills that came before the Senate. Senator Persaud was also successful in passing more than thirty bills in the Senate, nine of which also passed the Assembly and will be sent at a later date to the Governor for a decision, including:



*Joined by her mother, Ms. Yvonne Persaud, Senator Persaud takes the oath of office on Wednesday, January 4, 2023.*

- **S. 1196-A** would require that every insurer provide coverage for biomarker testing when medically appropriate. A “biomarker” is a sign of disease or abnormal function that can be measured in blood, tissue, or bodily fluid.
- **S. 1522** amends several sections of law to replace instances of the words “feminine hygiene products” and “sanitary napkins” with the words “menstrual products” and “pads,” respectively.
- **S. 7259-A** would establish a Fiscal Cliff Taskforce to conduct a study on public benefits “cliffs” in the areas of SNAP, subsidized child care, Medicaid and other programs that assist low-income New Yorkers.
- **S. 5069** would require at least one voting member of the MTA board of directors to be transit-dependent.
- **S. 6596** would permanently extend protections relating to the filling of borrow pits in Jamaica Bay and also direct NYS DEC to study ecological restoration needs.



# 2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION WRAP-UP



Senators Persaud, Scarcella-Spanton and Cleare hear testimony at the Human Services Budget Hearing in Albany.

## FY 2023-2024 STATE BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The Enacted FY 2023-2024 Budget prioritizes funding for public education; continuing the lowest personal income tax rates for working- and middle-class families in over 70 years; bolstering economic development; furthering efforts to combat climate change; and improving healthcare access, which includes historic mental health funding. Expanding the Child Tax Credit, affordable childcare, and free school lunches in this Budget will help families across New York State save money. Additionally, the Budget increases wages for working New Yorkers and further invests in housing for renters and homeowners while enhancing public safety, justice, and equity throughout the State.

### INVESTING IN EDUCATION

- **K-12 Education:** for the first time, the NYS Legislature has fully funded public school Foundation Aid and secured the largest annual School Aid allocation of \$34.5 billion.
- **Expanding Free School Meals:** the NYS Senate won \$134 million to cover school meals, helping to ensure that no student goes hungry.
- **Bolstering SUNY and CUNY:** the Senate successfully halted any increases to in-state tuition across public higher education systems.

### EXPANDING ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE, MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT AND SOCIAL SERVICES

- **Standing Up for Reproductive Care:** as federal attacks on reproductive freedoms continue, New York is allocating \$100.7 million to fund providers. This Budget also expands access to abortion care for over-the-counter contraception. New laws also protect the data of patients seeking reproductive care.
- **Investing in Mental Health:** New York will make one of the largest investments in mental health in a generation - \$1 billion for transforming the continuum of care by increasing inpatient psychiatric treatment capacity, dramatically expanding outpatient services, and boosting insurance coverage.
- **Supporting New Yorkers with Disabilities:** expanding the Medicaid Buy-In Program for working people with disabilities, funding and reinvigorating the Interagency Coordinating Council for Services to Persons who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing, and increasing the number of Civil Service Section 55-B positions will grow the representation of those with disabilities in the State workforce.

- **Strengthening Distressed Providers:** This Budget allocates \$500 million to support additional aid for distressed providers, casting a lifeline to the safety-net hospitals that are often the last venues for care in underserved communities. This Budget also reserves \$35 million to support 340 B-funded entities.
- **Revitalizing Medicaid:** The 2023-2024 Budget included \$1 billion in health care capital funding and expanded Medicaid coverage for more than 7.8 million low-income New Yorkers, including a significant rate increase of 7.5% for in-patient hospital services and 6.5% for out-patient hospital services, nursing homes, and other providers.
- **Senior Centers / NORCS** are funded at \$4.02 million, respectively, including a \$1 million addition over the Governor's proposal.
- **Nutrition Outreach & Education Program (NOEP)** is funded at \$5.45 million, which includes \$2 million in additional funding that Senator Persaud fought for.

### SUPPORTING WORKING PEOPLE AND FAMILIES

- A new **minimum wage increase** will be fully phased in by 2026. In NYC, Westchester, Nassau and Suffolk: the hourly wage will increase to \$16.00 in January 2024; \$16.50 in January 2025, then \$17.00 in January 2026. In all other counties: the hourly wage will increase to \$15.00 in January 2024; \$15.50 in January 2025, then \$16.00 in January 2026.
- **Strengthening Child Care:** the Budget includes new comprehensive programs to ensure high-quality, affordable child care, including \$500 million toward a Workforce Retention Grant Program and \$25 million to support the Employer Child Care Tax Credit.
- **Expanding the Child Care Tax Credit:** the tax credit will now be available to families with children from birth to four years, thus allowing more than 500,000 households to claim the credit.
- **Lower Personal Income Tax:** the Budget continues a phase-in of lower income tax rates for working- and middle-class families, making it the lowest it has been in over 70 years.
- 4% wage increases for many O-Agency Workers under OPWDD, SOFA, OCFS, OTDA, DOH and OMH programs. Senator Persaud will continue to fight for higher wages for ALL O-Agency workers.



Senator Persaud stands in solidarity with 1199 SEIU health care workers representing Brookdale Hospital outside the State Capitol in calling for strong investments in healthcare.



# 2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION WRAP-UP

## INVESTMENTS IN PUBLIC SAFETY

- **Securing Our Streets from Weapons of War:** The Senate continues to fund evidence-based gun violence reduction programs, with this Budget allocating \$347 million to such initiatives.
- **Combating Hate Crimes and Anti-AAPI Violence:** New York State will provide \$30 million for Asian American Pacific Islander equity budget coalition priorities for crisis intervention initiatives and community-based programs to combat hate crimes.
- **Clarifying Procedures and Upholding Criminal Justice Reforms:** This Budget allocates \$160 million to support the implementation of discovery reform for prosecutors and defenders, along with \$50 million in capital for discovery technology improvements in NYC. It also provides \$92 million for aid for prosecution and defense funding throughout New York.



Senator Persaud, FPWA's Jennifer Jones Austin and City Harvest's Jerome Nathaniel at the 2023 BPRHA Caucus Weekend panel discussion on "Making Ends Meet - Measuring the True Cost of Living & Achieving a NYS Self Sufficiency Standard."



Constituents meet Easter Bunnies at Senator Persaud's 2023 Annual Easter Egg Hunt in Canarsie Park.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Notary Public services for constituents' personal non-business matters are available monthly at the District Office, 1222 East 96th Street, Brooklyn, from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon on the following dates: Thursday, August 24; Friday, September 22; Friday, October 27; Thursday, November 30 and Monday, December 18.

**Senate District 19 Fun Day & Back-to-School Giveaway:** Tuesday, August 22 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Canarsie Park, Seaview Avenue & 88th Street, Brooklyn.

**Senior Resource Day:** Thursday, September 7 from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the District Office, 1222 East 96th Street, Brooklyn.

**2023 Power 19 Awards:** Wednesday evening, September 27. Details forthcoming.

Other upcoming events will be listed on [www.facebook.com/sd19senatorpersaud](https://www.facebook.com/sd19senatorpersaud) and at [www.persaud.nysenate.gov](https://www.persaud.nysenate.gov).



Senator Persaud joins Rabbi Avrohom Hecht at a UJA Federation MLK Day food distribution event.

## Congratulations to the 2023 graduates who received special NYS Senate District 19 awards:

- |                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Maya Acevedo       | Kayci-Ann Lyon    |
| Monica Adams       | Jordan Mayers     |
| Zainab Ajakaye     | Armari McKinney   |
| Enakeno Akpokene   | Tayonndrah McNeil |
| Afnan Alkasri      | Alianna Mesidor   |
| Tarick Bacchus     | Lili Ortiz-Baez   |
| Delsy Bernandez    | Adrianna Pink     |
| Saif Bhadai        | Osfarnia Prospere |
| Jaleyah Bourne     | Sarah Rodgers     |
| Davidanna David    | Ava Rush          |
| Trinity Falay      | Kirti Sahadeo     |
| Indira Ferreira    | Jason Salmon      |
| Antoinette Gamble  | Judah Smith       |
| Sudipto Halder     | Kayla Springs     |
| Diana Henriquez    | Thasnim Tabassoom |
| Christopher Howell | Thasin Tabassoom  |
| Nachelle Johnson   | Kassandra Toro    |
| Jahmire Johnson    | Sarah Williams    |
| Gianna Luz Vazquez | Anier York        |



Senator Persaud addresses graduates at Transit Tech High School's ceremony at Citi Field.



Senator Roxanne J. Persaud, P.S. 328's My Brother's Keeper, representatives of Lowe's and the Fund for Public Schools cutting the ribbon on a school-based laundry center at the Phyllis Wheatley School in Brownsville.





Senator Persaud and some of her constituents touring the Senate Chamber during 2023 BPRHA Caucus Weekend in Albany.



# SENATOR ROXANNE J. PERSAUD'S

## Summer 2023

### Newsletter:

# LEGISLATIVE

# SESSION

# WRAP-UP



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Women In Justice Project's Tamar Kraft-Stolar, Patrice Smith, Jaya Vasandani, Monica Szelekovics, Kristie Lutz and Annalise Lockhart with Senator Persaud during filming of a documentary about the 2019 Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act (DVSJA) that was sponsored by Senator Persaud and signed into law.



Senator Persaud discusses agricultural issues with former NYS Senator Cecilia Tkaczyk at the Rural Resources Fair in Albany.