

Senator Persaud Community Newsletter



Dear Neighbor:

I hope you are having a wonderful year and that you took some time during summer to experience the wonderful attractions that New York State offers. As we approach the official end of summer, I am recapping for you some major highlights of the legislative session. The 2017 /2018, State Budget was passed on April 9, 2017 and the legislature left Albany on June 29 after taking up Mayoral Control during an Extraordinary Session called by the Governor. Although we did not accomplish everything we had hoped for, we were still able to pass substantial pieces of legislation and secure funding in the budget for important programs and services that enhance the lives of New Yorkers. The following are some budget highlights:

- **Health/Medicaid:** Department of Health: The Final Budget provides \$3.7 billion in All Funds support for State Operations reflecting an increase of \$98.2 million from the Executive Budget. This increase includes an offset by a reduction of \$71.7 million attributed to the elimination of the New York State of Health Program; \$10 million for enhanced Safety Net Hospitals and \$10 million for critical access hospitals.
- **Education:** The 2017-2018 budget agreement provides an overall School Aid increase of \$386.8 million for the City of New of New York, bringing overall State Aid to \$7.45 billion in School Year 2017-2018. This increase is associated with a Foundation Aid increase of \$337 million.
- **Senior Centers:** Sixty-five Senior Centers in New York City were saved from having their doors closed. \$17 million in funding being redirected to other programs will continue to support Title XX funds for senior centers.
- **MTA:** The Legislature decided to restore \$65 million lost in operating aid for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (MTA) with a \$65 million allocation in capital funds. This restoration would allow the MTA to have some flexibility in dealing with the operating aid cuts.
- **Affordable & Supportive Housing:** The Adopted Budget provided a breakdown of the \$2.5 billion capital plan that was approved by the State Legislature in 2016 for supportive and housing initiatives. The current plan would provide funds over the next five-years for several initiatives.
- **Direct Care Workers:** Direct care workers should receive fair, competitive wages so that New Yorkers can continue to get the essential care and services they require. The 2017-18 Budget agreement secures funding that will help these professionals receive compensation for the essential services they provide to those with developmental disabilities, mental health, alcohol and substance abuse. The State's Budget agreement provide over \$160 million over two years to fund two 3.25 percent salary increases (a total of 6.5 percent over two years) for direct support professionals. Under the plan, on January 1, 2018, direct care and direct support staff will get a 3.25 percent salary increase. Direct care, direct support staff, and clinical staff will get an additional 3.25 percent raise on April 1, 2018 to make certain that these essential personnel obtain wages exceeding the minimum wage.

Yours in Partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roxanne".

Senator Persaud addresses members of the media during the ACA Press Conference in Albany on March 8, 2017



New York State Senator
Roxanne J. Persaud
19th Senatorial District

Albany Office:
504 Legislative Office Bldg.
Albany, NY 12247
Phone: (518) 455-2788
Fax: (518) 426-6806

District Office:
1222 East 96th St.
Brooklyn, NY 11236
Phone: (718) 649-7653
Fax: (718) 649-7661

E-Mail: persaud@nysenate.gov • Website: persaud.nysenate.gov

Raise the Age

2017 Raise the Age Legislation - Top Ten Things You Should Know

1. This act takes effect on October 1, 2018 for 16 year olds; and will take effect on October 1, 2019 for 17 year olds.
2. Sealing Provision has a 10-year look-back period. Starting October 10, 2017, eligible individuals convicted of non-violent offenses may apply for the sealing of up to two misdemeanors and up to 1 felony. Sentencing Court will supply the form at the Clerk's Office.
3. Parental Notification of the Arrest of a 16 and 17-year-old becomes Mandatory.
4. Starting April 1, 2018 and no later than October 1, 2018, all 16 and 17 year olds will be moved OUT of Rikers Correctional Facility.
5. Beginning October 1, 2018 all 16 year olds and subsequently beginning October 1, 2019 all 17 year olds, adjudicated or pending prosecution will be housed in specialized secure detention facilities for older youth that are certified and regulated by the Office of Children and Family Services in conjunction with the State Commission of Correction working with the local municipality and Sheriff.
6. 16 and 17 year olds convicted of a felony offense sentenced to an indeterminate or determinate sentence will be committed to Hudson Correctional facility, which is envisioned to be a hybrid adolescent facility run by the Department of Corrections with services and programming rendered by the Office of Children and Family Services.
7. Beginning October 1, 2018 all 16 year olds and subsequently beginning October 1, 2019 all 17 year olds, charged with most MISDEMEANORS will be diverted to Family Court NOT criminal court. ALL violations and Vehicle and Traffic offenses including misdemeanors will continue to be heard in local criminal court.
8. Beginning October 1, 2018 all 16 year olds and subsequently beginning October 1, 2019 all 17 year olds, charged with a FELONY offense will be sent to a Youth Part in a Superior Court.
9. A presumption has been inserted in the law to direct as many non-violent felonies to a Family Court for disposition absent extraordinary circumstances.
10. In place is a legal mechanism to allow for the removal of certain violent felonies to a Family Court, where the elements of the particular crime do not require or is absent the use of a deadly weapon in furtherance of a crime, offense did not result in significant physical injury and it did not include an unlawful sex act or unlawful sexual contact.

Legislation

Each year legislators introduce legislation in hopes of protecting the rights and futures of all New Yorkers and making healthier, stronger and safer communities. During this 2017 Session, I introduced 23 bills in the State Senate. While all my introductions are important to the constituents of Senate District 19, I would like to highlight three of them.

- **S 4363** – This bill creates a firearm violence research institute and making appropriation therefor. Little is known about the factors that give rise to firearm violence and its prevention. Firearm violence and its physical and social impacts are a significant public health and safety problem and becoming more so. Nevertheless, Congress eliminated funding for research and prevention through the Center for Disease Control and prevention in 1996. Efforts to restore that funding have been unsuccessful because of active well-financed special interest groups. Unlike other major health and social concerns such as motor vehicle accidents, cancer, heart disease, and tobacco which have received expanded research, too little research has been done on firearm violence. Establishing a center for firearm violence research in New York State will help ensure a long-term effort towards understanding and preventing future firearm related violence against New Yorkers.
- **S5379** – This bill relates to instruction concerning traffic stops. This bill would require driver's education and defensive driving instructors to include proper behavior when stopped by a law enforcement officer as a part of driving instruction courses. It is important that prospective drivers be fully educated on all aspects of driving safety before they are on the road and including instruction on proper behavior when stopped by law enforcement in defensive driving courses as well would provide vital information to licensed drivers who would not otherwise have access to it.
- **S1318** – This bill creates an allowance for eligible parents to receive an allowance every three months to assist in the purchasing of diapers for their children two years and under. Infants urinate as often as every 1 to 3 hours or from time to time every 4 to 6 hours. Keeping them dry and free from diaper rash can be challenging for low-income parents. Diaper rash which is usually caused by irritation of the skin from being in contact with stool and urine can typically be prevented by frequent diaper changes. Assisting the eligible parents in acquiring an adequate supply of pampers can help in avoiding health consequences.

New York State Senator Roxanne J. Persaud • 19th Senate District

Canarsie • East New York • Brownsville • Mill Basin • Sheepshead Bay • Bergen Beach • Marine Park • Flatlands • Mill Island • Georgetown • Ocean Hill • Starrett City

Accomplishments

Free in-person assistance GetCoveredNYC:

Certified Application Counselor (CAC) assisted many families in the district sign up for low or no-cost health insurance. The counselors explained the health insurance and medical care options to constituents. These counselors are still in my district office twice per month. Constituents are encouraged to use their services.

Free Tax Preparation:

My office collaborated with **Grow Brooklyn VITA Office** each Wednesday from February 15 to April 12 to assist constituents who qualified to receive free tax return preparation. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offered free tax help to people who generally make \$54,000 or less, persons with disabilities and limited English speaking taxpayers who need assistance in preparing their own tax returns.

Know Your Rights Immigration Forum:

The meeting provided an opportunity for constituents to gain insight about pressing issues as it relates to immigration. Representatives from various agencies attended to offer assistance or make appointments for further follow-up.

Bonnet Easter Sunday Tradition (BEST):

Held at Vandalia Senior Center brought seniors together from across the district to display their hats and bonnets and even their best outfit. Some of the participants personally made their hats/bonnets. This was a real competition. The event was one of food, fun and fashion.

Inaugural Easter Egg Hunt:

On Saturday, April 8, 2017, parents/guardians and their children attended this fun filled event. Over 1,000 colorful eggs were hidden Canarsie Park to be found by the children. Face painting, games, arts, crafts and of course, refreshments were enjoyed by all.

Affordable Care Act Discussion: In April, I collaborated with Democratic Conference Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, other Elected Officials, and

health care workers to host an information forum and present constituents with our comprehensive plan to protect the health care of New Yorkers.

Job Resource Fair in Partnership with New York City Department of Education (DOE):

In May, we were happy to collaborate with the DOE to host an employment resource fair for constituents of the District. This fair was held on the Campus of South Shore High School and I am working to make it an annual event.

Annual Rain Barrel Giveaway:

During the month of July, my office collaborated with New York City Department of Environmental Protection to offer free rain barrels to homeowners to help reduce water bills, conserve drinking water, and help prevent hazardous sewer overflows into our local waterways. Captured storm water is stored in the barrel, which can be used for watering your garden or washing your car.

Senator Roxanne Persaud & Housing for Family Services for Greater New York :

Housing Information and Counseling Services: Greater New York Housing Information and Counseling Services staff were available at the District Office one day per week and provided individual counseling sessions for constituents who needed assistance in resolving issues and concerns regarding homeownership, foreclosure and or tenant difficulties.

Mobile Offices:

This initiative makes it easier for me to bring the services of the office closer to you. It is my desire to provide constituents with full access to information and support that are available. At scheduled times my staff visit different locations within the district and set up a temporary (mobile) office. In addition, other government agencies and community organizations are at these sites to provide services to you.

Concerns

Your concerns are very important to me. The following are just some of the ongoing challenges we face as a community. Please partner with me to help in bringing resolution to these areas of concern, by calling my office, attending community meetings and introducing ideas that can help in bringing resolve to the following matters:

The Environment: Littering, proper garbage disposal and recycling.

Safety: Gun violence, keeping communities safe through partnership with residents and law enforcement - The Neighborhood Coordinating Officers (NCO). Neighborhood policing is Police Commissioner James O'Neill's comprehensive plan to increase police and community connectivity by helping New York City residents get to know cops in a brand new way.

Neighborhood policing divides precincts into four or five fully staffed sectors that correspond, as much as possible, to the boundaries of actual existing neighborhoods. Sector officers work the same neighborhoods on the same shifts, increasing their familiarity with the local residents and local problems. I encourage you to get to know these officers.

Transportation: In 2016, we started the discussion with the mayor's office and MTA about the closure for reconstruction of the Canarsie Tunnel, which the L Train uses. This conversation also included the request for ferry service from the Canarsie Pier. Since that time, residents have started a petition to the Mayor asking for the Ferry service from Canarsie to Manhattan. The shutdown of the tunnel will last for 18 months beginning in 2019.

New York State Senator Roxanne J. Persaud • 19th Senate District

Canarsie • East New York • Brownsville • Mill Basin • Sheepshead Bay • Bergen Beach • Marine Park • Flatlands • Mill Island • Georgetown • Ocean Hill • Starrett City



Senator Persaud joins her legislative colleagues in celebrating Haitian Unity Day in Albany.



Senator Persaud with Guyana's Consul General to New York, the Honorable Barbara Atherly during the commemoration of Caribbean Heritage Month.



Senator Roxanne J. Persaud joins the members of the Social Adult Day Care Program at the Kings Bay Y, during the Lunar New Year Celebrations.

New York State Senate
Albany, NY 12247



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Roxanne J. Persaud Community Newsletter

PRSRT-STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
New York Senate

19th Senate District

District Office

1222 East 96th St.
Brooklyn, NY 11236
Phone: (718) 649-7653

Albany Office

504 Legislative Office Bldg.
Albany, NY 12247
Phone: (518) 455-2788

E-mail: Persaud@nysenate.gov

Web: Persaud.nysenate.gov

Upcoming Events

Mobile Office

October 19th
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Brigham Park Co-op 3: 3105 Avenue V

Halloween Movie Day

October 28th
12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Location – To Be Announced.

Domestic Violence Workshop

Date and Location to be announced

Please Check Online For More Information



Persaud.nysenate.gov



Senator Roxanne J. Persaud meets with the Commissioner of the NYC Department of Small Business Services (SBS), Gregg Bishop (2nd from left) and members of his office to tour parts of the District.



Senator Persaud in partnership with Midwood and Canarsie Lions Club members visited the Samaritan Village-Forbell Men Shelter and presented the residents with hats and gloves.