



Senator Persaud and advocates praise Senate passage of the DVSJA.



Senator Persaud and Power 19 Honorees.

## UPDATE FROM ALBANY

### 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

2019 has been an exciting year in Albany. I am proud to have sponsored numerous bills that were signed into law this year, including the following:

#### **Banning Non-Consensual Pelvic Exams**

Governor Cuomo signed S1092/A632, sponsored by Assemblywoman Michaelle Solages and I, into law. The new law, which will take effect April 4th, 2020, makes it an act of professional misconduct for a medical provider to supervise or perform a pelvic exam on an anesthetized or unconscious patient without first obtaining the patient's informed consent. The law also prohibits a doctor from administering a non-consensual pelvic exam unless it is part of the medical procedure or the patient is unconscious and it is medically necessary and required for diagnosis. According to a recent survey of medical students conducted by Elle Magazine, over 60% reported performing a pelvic exam without explicit patient consent.

#### **Menstrual Product Ingredient Disclosure Requirement**

History was made in New York this year, when S2387/A164, sponsored by Assemblywoman Linda Rosenthal and I, was signed into law. New York State is now the first in the nation to require full ingredient disclosure on all menstrual products. Tampons and other menstrual products are a multi-billion dollar industry. These products are marketed and sold with little or no data assuring the ingredients they contain are safe.

At the federal level, the Food and Drug Administration deems these products as 'medical devices', which means that manufacturers are not required to go into specifics regarding what the products are made of. I hope more states will follow New York's lead when it comes to requiring disclosure of personal product ingredients.

#### **Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act**

Governor Cuomo signed into law S1077/A3974, the Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act, which I championed with Assemblyman Jeff Aubry. The new law allows judges in New York to sentence male and female victims of domestic violence convicted of a crime to lesser prison time - determinate or indeterminate - if the defendant was largely influenced by their abuse at the time of the offense. It also adds the option of community-based alternative-to-incarceration programs and gives eligible survivors currently in prison the opportunity to apply for resentencing. Previously, the state's criminal justice system did not allow judges' discretion in taking into account the impact of domestic violence when determining sentence lengths.

### 2020 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

#### **Jury Instruction Bill**

In the upcoming legislative session I will be introducing new legislation, which would ensure that at least one written copy of the 'jury charge' is provided to jurors for use in the deliberation room. In New York, when jurors

receive instruction from the judge on how to interpret the relevant laws when deliberating innocence or guilt, it is expected that they will commit what the judge said to memory. If they forget a portion of what the judge said, or want a refresher, they are required to leave the deliberation room, go back to the courtroom, and have the judge repeat (verbally) what he/she has already said. According to an ongoing survey, New York is one of a small handful of states that don't allow for a written copy of the jury 'charge' inside of the deliberation room. The survey, conducted by the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, found that of the 26 states already surveyed, 22 states allow for written copies to be provided to the jurors in some fashion. This issue speaks to principles of fundamental fairness and justice. Ensuring jurors have a robust and clear understanding of the laws is vital for ensuring justice is meted out fairly and accurately. We should make it as easy as possible for jurors to understand the relevant laws when determining if a crime was committed.

#### **Bodega Bill**

I look forward to pushing for the passage of my Bodega Inspection bill S1085, which is designed to uphold local bodegas and delicatessens to the same health standards as restaurants across the city of New York.

#### **School Bus Residential Parking Bill**

This upcoming legislative session, I will also be seeking passage of my legislation S1084/



Senator Persaud and youth at 2019 Family Fun Day



Senator Persaud and two Senior Resource Day participants.



2019 NYS Senate Women of Distinction Honoree Lisa Hermann with her family in the Senate Chamber.

A6853 that prohibits school buses from parking on city streets on weekdays between the hours of 5 p.m. and 5 a.m. and on weekends from 5 p.m. on Friday to 5 a.m. on Monday. In some neighborhoods it has become exceedingly difficult for homeowners and tenants to find parking on residential streets because parking spaces are being occupied by school buses.

### **Gun Violence Research Institute Bill**

I am proud to head back to Albany in the upcoming year to fight for full funding for my Gun Violence Research Institute legislation, which seeks to establish a center for firearm violence research that will help ensure a long-term effort towards understanding and preventing firearm-related violence against New Yorkers.

## **FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Bullet Aid**

My office recently announced \$50,000 in NYS Department of Education “Bullet Aid” grant funding for schools and non-profit organizations serving constituents of the 19th Senate District. Secured in the NYS Budget for fiscal year 2019-2020, this funding will help supplement classroom teaching expenses, support after-school programs and connect more youth to STEM/STEAM and the arts. Grantees included: P.S. 194 Raoul Wallenberg and P.S. 272 Curtis Estabrook; STEM/STEAM programs offered by Elite Learners, Inc., Sisters with Purpose and St. Francis College; Arts and cultural education programs offered by No Kids Left Behind, Inc., and BRIC | ARTS | MEDIA, Bklyn, Inc.; and My

Extended Family, an afterschool program serving students from single-parent households.

### **Funding for The HOPE Program:**

Earlier this Fall, I was joined by Senator Montgomery and Assemblywoman Simon to present The HOPE Program with a \$100,000 check commemorating operational grant funding appropriated in the NYS Budget for fiscal year 2019-2020. This new grant from the Senate will support employment readiness and job training programs for people in Brooklyn through technical education and wrap-around support services.

Additionally, I co-sponsored legislative grants for the Met Council on Jewish Poverty, Helen Keller Services for the Blind and the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce.

## **WERE YOU SEEN IN SD19?**

### **SD19 Annual “Power 19” Awards**

In June, I was honored to recognize nineteen outstanding individuals who have contributed to the growth of our community, through engagement and devotion of time and energy to improving the quality of life for all. Although the honorees ranged from high school students to older adults and individuals from all walks of life, their commitment to serving others was a common thread. Service to others, is indeed the best gift of humanity. Please let me know if there is an individual you would like to nominate for recognition at our 2020 event. Please contact my office **before March 1, 2020.**

### **SD19 Annual Family Fun Day**

Thank you to everyone who attended the 2019 Annual Family Fun Day on August 15th in Canarsie Park. Hundreds of families came out and enjoyed activities such as life-sized board games and carnival attractions, a rock-climbing wall, a variety of refreshments, giveaways and raffles as well as helpful information and resources. Too many families in the district face the challenge of finding fun activities for their children and loved ones that are cost-efficient, so I am delighted to host events like these that provide family-friendly entertainment and spread the word of the vast amount of resources available to the community.

### **SD19 Annual Senior Resource Day**

Our 2019 Annual Senior Resource Day on Thursday, Sept. 5, was a major success! This yearly event connects seniors and caretakers to government agencies, supportive service providers and community-based organizations to ensure that the district’s aging generation have the tools to thrive. We had a spectacular turnout with hundreds of seniors gathered to converse, eat, dance and learn more about the services available in the community. Our office motto is “You deserve to be served,” and that’s what we do best.

### **Shirley Chisholm Park**

This past summer, Shirley Chisholm State Park opened right in SD19. Not only is Shirley Chisholm State Park Brooklyn’s newest park, it is the largest state park in New York City! As part of the Vital Brooklyn Initiative, this new 407-acre park brings much needed recreational and open



(Left to right: NYS Parks Commissioner Erik Kulleseid, Senator Roxanne Persaud, Governor Cuomo and Congressman Hakeem Jeffries, walking at Shirley Chisholm State Park).



Left to Right: Irene Branche, Senator Persaud, Jennifer Mitchell, Assemblymember Jo Anne Simon and Senator Velmanette Montgomery.

space for visitors to walk, jog and cycle on 10 miles of trails as well as reconnect with the Jamaica Bay waterfront.

## CONSTITUENTS SHINING IN ALBANY

### Senate District 19 Woman of Distinction

On May 7, 2019 Lisa Hermann, Principal of J.H.S. 218 James P. Sinnott, was one of more than sixty women from across New York State who received a NYS Senate Women Of Distinction Award. Ms. Hermann was chosen as the Senate District 19 honoree because of her dedication, outstanding contributions and passion to help her students succeed. The award was presented during a ceremony in Albany.

My office will be accepting nominations for the 2020 Woman of Distinction Award. If there is a woman who you think needs to be recognized for her exceptional work on behalf of the community, please contact my office **before March 1, 2020**.

### Veterans Hall of Fame

The NYS Senate Veterans' Hall of Fame was established to commend and salute exceptional veterans from the Empire State. These men and women have been examples of courage, strength and good character both in military and civilian life. Their commendable service to their community, state and country merits distinct respect and acknowledgment. On May 21<sup>st</sup>, Private First Class Henry Bolus was inducted into NYS Senate Veterans Hall of Fame as the Senate District 19 inductee. Mr. Bolus is also a recipient of the NYS Senate Liberty Award.

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS!

### DO YOU have your REAL ID?

Starting in October 2020, New York residents will be required to have a Real ID-compliant driver's license or photo ID in order to board **all domestic flights** within the continental United States, or to enter federal buildings, military bases and other facilities.

A common question is whether REAL ID and Enhanced ID mean the same thing. **The answer is: NO.** Enhanced IDs allow U.S. residents to re-enter the country from Canada, Mexico, and some Caribbean countries, in addition to complying with the federal Real ID Act. It is important to remember that not every Real ID is an Enhanced ID. If you have not done so already, you should visit the NYS Department of Motor Vehicles as soon as possible to obtain the proper license or non-driver identification. Additional information is available via [www.dmv.ny.gov](http://www.dmv.ny.gov) or [www.dhs.gov](http://www.dhs.gov).

### NYS Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) online resources

The NYS DMV provides abundant online services including but not limited to the following: replacement of a license, permit, CDL or non-driver ID; checking the status of or renewal of a license or non-driver ID; vision test locator; verification of driving privilege status and license points; schedule a road test; restoration of license after revocation; review, pay and/or appeal various fees, civil penalties, violations, driver responsibility assessments, and; change of address; enroll in various email and/or text reminders; become an organ, eye or tissue donor; and register to

vote. A comprehensive list of online services is available via [www.dmv.ny.gov](http://www.dmv.ny.gov)

Through a partnership with the **New York Legal Assistance Group** (NYLAG), you may be able to receive pro-bono legal help. My office will be hosting the NYLAG mobile office on the following dates in 2020: Tuesday, February 25th, Wednesday, April 8th, Saturday, May 9th and Tuesday, June 16th. Please contact the district office at (718) 647-7653 to inquire further.

### Immigrant New Yorkers: Know Your Rights

If you have a concern, please call the ActionNYC hotline at 1-800-354-0365 to receive free and safe assistance.

### SAVE THE DATE!

**Friday Feb.14 – Sunday Feb. 16, 2020:** NYS Association of Black and Puerto Rican Legislators 2020 Caucus Weekend in Albany. My annual Caucus Weekend Open House will take from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on Sat., Feb. 15, in Room 409 LOB



Senator Persaud greets Senator Schumer in Albany.

Dear Neighbor/Friend:

Warmest Holiday Greetings to you and your family. I hope you are well and enjoying all the season has to offer.

As 2019 draws to a close, I would like to update you on many accomplishments we made together as a community in Senate District 19. First and foremost, I extend a heartfelt "thank you" for allowing me to serve as your representative in Albany for another Legislative Session. Meeting with individuals, families and organizations throughout SD19 has allowed me to be a strong voice for your needs, concerns and aspirations. I am happy to report that I was able to pass a record number of bills that directly impact the lives of all.

As you peruse this newsletter you will find information about important legislation, community events, community updates and 2020 at-a-glance items. My staff and I have attended hundreds of meetings, conducted workshops, hosted events, recognized individuals and organizations' milestone events, met with constituents, liaised and collaborated with residents, government and not-for-profit agencies, and worked to bring more resources to make SD19 stronger, safer and more resilient. We look

forward to conducting more outreach and having additional services to address your needs.

Please feel free to contact my office if you have an idea for a piece of legislation or if you would like to have a proclamation for a milestone birthday, anniversary or event. We are always happy to hear from you. Visit my official [NYSenate.gov](http://NYSenate.gov) website to find information on upcoming events, status of legislation, official reports, press releases and more. My office produces a weekly e-newsletter and we would love to share it with you. Please contact us to be placed on the email list.

In closing, I wish you the best of what 2020 brings. May your days filled with joy, laughter and may peace be a constant companion and the love of family and friends be ever present. You Deserve To Be Served.

Sincerely,

Roxanne

# Senator Roxanne J. Persaud

## 2019 Fall/Winter Newsletter



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### I Ask

Give me greater understanding so I may find the way,

So I can be the best me each and every day.

Give me your faith to eradicate fear and doubt.

About where the path is taking me or what the lessons are about.

I ask for peace that beckons me to share its glow with others -  
so I may embrace humanity as my sisters and my brothers.

Give me joy and I will impart it to all abundantly,

And make the world a place of love, joy and community.

Give me patience that I might wait and learn how to be strong

Give me discernment so my insight would steer me from the wrong.

Give me knowledge to extend a hand to others along life's way,

And be very mindful of the things I often do and say.

Make my shoulders strong enough to help another with their load,

And speak words of encouragement as we travel along life's road.

Help me be a token of hope everywhere I go,

That I might leave a legacy that others often follow.

Touch my eyes that they may see the good in everyone,

Guide my feet that they may walk in paths where they belong.

I ask for a grateful heart filled with thanksgiving and cheer,

Make me a blessing to love, to inspire and persevere.

I ask not just for me, but for all to be a part,

And may the spirit of Thanksgiving be found in every heart.

- Michelle Edwin