



Dear neighbor,

My colleagues and I recently concluded a productive legislative session in Albany, where we addressed many issues of importance to New Yorkers. Upon convening in January, we focused on addressing the continued impacts of the pandemic, and we went on to pass a budget making significant investments in education, childcare, and families. We've enacted measures to prevent and crack down on reckless speeding near New York City's schools and legislation to protect all New York voters, not just some.

We had challenging conversations during our final session days regarding the governance of New York City's schools, the largest district in the Nation. We must overcome our current challenges to ensure that our students receive a quality education with all the resources and support. Our Legislature continues to ensure New York provides the most substantial reproductive healthcare rights. In light of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision, we must now guarantee these healthcare rights for women's bodily autonomy and reproductive health choices more than ever.

Gun violence has long been a public health crisis in our City and across America. Recent mass shootings in Buffalo, Uvalde, Tulsa, and elsewhere have claimed too many lives. We will not sit idly and offer thoughts and prayers. The Legislature and Governor Hochul agreed to and voted upon a package of immediate common-sense reforms that will strengthen our existing laws. We also acted on legislation introduced by the Governor to counter the U.S. Supreme Court's decision against our Concealed Carry laws.

Finally, as a reminder, our Senate district will be changing based on the redistricting process. In the upcoming months, we will continue to share information with you. You can view maps and find your updated district online at <https://newyork.redistrictingandyou.org/>.

If you have a suggestion or concern, don't hesitate to contact my office at (718) 649-7653 or email persaud@nysenate.gov. You can receive more frequent updates on my legislative work and happenings in Senate District 19 by signing up for my weekly e-newsletter by visiting <http://persaud.nysenate.gov>.

I wish you a safe and enjoyable summer. Remember to participate in our summer activities.

Sincerely,

Senator Roxanne J. Persaud
SD-19

2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION WRAP-UP

NEW LAWS TO ADDRESS GUN VIOLENCE

The Legislature passed a package of bills to address the ongoing scourge of gun violence in communities across New York and our country.

- Expanded *definition of a firearm* to include any device not otherwise specified which provides a housing or structure for a firing component designed to fire a projectile via explosion, including “ghost guns” (Ch. 211).



- Age 21+ permit, background check and safety course requirement for purchase or taking ownership of *semi-automatic rifles* on a prospective basis (Ch. 212).
- Microstamping capability requirement for semi-automatic pistols* manufactured or delivered to licensed dealers (Ch. 205).
- Ban on *large-capacity ammunition and feeding devices* to be deemed criminal possession of a weapon in the third degree (Ch. 209).
- Prohibition on the unauthorized purchase, sale or delivery of *body armor* (Ch. 210).
- Stronger *criminal background checks* for purchases of guns and ammunition; required reporting of recovered or seized weapons to a criminal gun clearinghouse (Ch. 207).
- Stronger *Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO)* statute authorizing certain healthcare practitioners to file, as well as a new filing requirement for police and district attorneys (Ch. 208)
- New crimes of making a threat of mass harm and aggravated *threat of mass harm* (Ch. 206).

Senator Persaud, fellow members of the Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic & Asian Legislative Caucus and other colleagues calling for stronger gun control laws in the wake of the tragedy in Buffalo.

2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION WRAP-UP

NEW LAWS TO COMBAT THE SPREAD OF HATE

- Requirement for social media networks to implement mechanisms to *detect and report hateful conduct* to law enforcement (Ch. 204).
- Creation of a *Task Force on Social Media and Violent Extremism* within the Attorney General's Office to investigate the role of social media in promoting and facilitating violent extremism and domestic terrorism (Ch. 213).

OTHER NEW STATE LAWS

- *Multi-bill Package Affirming Reproductive Health Choices and Access Includes:* freedom from interference with reproductive health advocacy and travel exercise (Ch. 218); prohibiting medical misconduct charges for performing reproductive health care (Ch. 220); protection of malpractice coverage (Ch. 221); and address confidentiality program (Ch. 222).
- *Protecting DV Victims and Survivors.* Senator Persaud sponsored legislation deeming DV victims a protected class in the NYS Human Rights Law (Ch. 202).
- *NYC Traffic Safety.* The three-year extension (to 2025) of NYC's school speed zone camera program will now be allowed to record speeding and reckless driving 24/7 (Ch. 229).
- *Strengthening the Jose Webster Untraceable Firearms Act.* Additional provisions ban "ghost guns" by clarifying application to gunsmiths and unserialized firearms. Effective April 26, 2022 (Ch. 149).
- *Sexual Harassment Hotline.* A toll-free hotline will be established for employees to report incidents of sexual harassment at the workplace. Victims will have access to pro bono legal support from attorneys to inform them of their rights and legal options. Effective July 14, 2022 (Ch. 138).
- *Subway Track Safety.* The MTA is required to develop an education and awareness campaign instructing how to react and respond to a person falling onto subway tracks (Ch. 62).
- *Definition of Employee to Include State Workers.* The legal definition of "employee" is expanded to include government workers in all branches. Effective retroactively to August 12, 2019 (Ch. 139).



Senator Persaud, Assemblymember Solages and members of the Amplify New York Coalition rally for bills to require insurance coverage of hearing aids for children (S. 533-B) and adults (S. 8684-A).

SENATOR PERSAUD'S BILLS ON THE MOVE

Senator Persaud passed a number of bills this year, including:

- *Eliminating the "R" Word.* Taken together, S. 6195-A and S. 6789-A will eliminate hundreds of instances of the degrading "R" word in State laws and replace each with "individual with developmental disability," or a similar reference.
- *Tougher Penalties for Medical Identity Theft.* S. 209-A would add medical and health insurance information to the existing definition of identity theft.
- *Underrepresented Teachers of Tomorrow.* S. 342 would help attract and retain more educators that look like and share experiences similar to their students. Education is a powerful equalizer; however, only twenty percent of New York's teachers come from Communities of Color and other underrepresented demographics.
- *Flexible Working Arrangements.* S.5065 would provide flexibility to work from home when schools and/or daycare centers are closed due to local or State-declared emergencies. When schools and daycare centers close, parents and legal guardians face obstacles in finding suitable and qualified care for their children.
- *Traffic Stop Protocol Instruction During Pre-licensing Courses – S.62:* Traffic stops can be overwhelming for new and experienced drivers. They should know proper etiquette and instructions on what to do when pulled over for a traffic stop. S.62 would require instruction on driver responsibilities during traffic stops as part of pre-licensing courses.
- *Additional Screening for Breast Cancer.* S. 8156 would require specific insurance policies and Medicaid to allow patients to get additional screening for breast cancer. Extending one hundred-twenty days for patients to get additional breast cancer screening will help increase the accuracy of breast cancer diagnoses.
- *Uterine Fibroids Diagnosis and Treatment.* S. 8549 would require health insurance companies to cover costs related to uterine fibroids, whether or not the patient is in pain. Preventative care is an essential part of health care; it helps save lives and can help extend one's life.



From left: Sammy Bical, Nick Perry, Jr., CM Mercedes Narcisse, Nalinie Bical, AM Jaime Williams, Rep. Yvette Clarke, AM Monique Chandler-Waterman, Dr. Una Clarke (the 1st Caribbean-born woman Councilmember), Dep. BP Diana Richardson, Sen. Roxanne Persaud and Lt. Governor Antonio Delgado join to celebrate Caribbean Heritage Month.



Sen. Persaud and Sen. Michelle Hinchey hosting a workshop on BIPOC Leadership and Opportunity in Farming and Food Systems as part of the 51st Annual Conference of the NYS Association of Black and Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian Legislators, Inc.

2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION WRAP-UP

ABOUT THE 2022-2023 STATE BUDGET

In early April, Senator Persaud and colleagues finalized a \$220.5 billion budget for State Fiscal Year 2022-2023. The budget increases targeted investments in COVID-19 economic recovery while delivering relief to property taxpayers, middle-income families, families with children, and small business owners.

Addressing Housing Instability

- **Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)** – in addition to the \$146 million recently received from Washington, the Legislature appropriated \$800 million to continue this essential rent arrears relief program. The budget also provides \$125 million for the **Landlord Rental Assistance Program (LRAP)**. \$250 million will also be available to eligible tenants and homeowners with COVID-related utility arrears.
- \$100 million in new funding for the **Housing Our Neighbors with Dignity Act (HONDA)**.

Funding for Health and Human Services Programs

- \$1.15 billion to support New York's safety-net hospitals and an additional \$1.6 billion available for capital grants.
- \$1.1 billion to increase home care worker wages by \$3 per hour over two years. *We will continue our advocacy to ensure that home care workers are paid for every hour worked – S. 359-A (Persaud) / A. 3145-A (Epstein).*
- \$10.5 million to support a 5.4% cost-of-living adjustment for workers in many OCFS programs.

Supporting Working Families

- \$1.66 billion to increase eligibility for subsidized child care to households earning up to 300% of the federal poverty level; increase reimbursement rates from 69% to 80%, and increase workers' pay.
- State-levied gas taxes suspended from June 1 to December 31 will include the 4% State sales and use tax, the \$0.08 State motor fuel tax, and the 0.375% Metropolitan Commuter Transportation District (MCTD) tax. This tax holiday will save New York motorists about \$600 million.
- \$2.2 billion for **School Tax Assessment Relief (STAR)** rebates for homeowners.
- \$200 million to deliver an additional State **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)** equal to 25% of the taxpayer's current benefit. Eligible NYC taxpayers will have an increase of the City EITC from 5% to 30% of the federal benefit amount.
- \$35 million for the **Homeowner Protection Program (HOPP)**, which provides legal assistance to homeowners at risk of foreclosure.
- \$100 million in tax relief to small businesses and \$250 million to credit businesses for expenses incurred in complying with COVID-19 protocols.

K-12 Education

- 2nd consecutive \$1.5 billion increase to **public school Foundation Aid**, putting New York on track to reach Campaign for Fiscal Equity mandate by next year.
- \$100 million for **Universal Pre-Kindergarten** will generate 15,000 additional slots.
- \$100 million in **mental health grants for school districts**.

Higher Education

- \$16 million to expand *child care to all SUNY and CUNY* campuses.
- \$150 million for the **Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)** for part-time students.
- \$35 million to support tuition assistance at private colleges.
- \$48.8 million to SUNY and \$59.6 million to CUNY to close the TAP gap.

Justice and Public Protection

- \$110 million to support gun violence prevention, legal services, pretrial services, and alternatives to incarceration.
- \$7.3 million for **Community Safety and Restorative Justice** initiatives.
- Legislative restorations for Brooklyn Legal Services, Mobilization for Justice, and Prisoners Legal Services.
- In response to growing concerns following criminal justice/bail reforms in 2019, the Governor, the Senate Majority Leader, and the Assembly Speaker agreed upon changes to bail reforms implemented in 2019. These changes include, but are not limited to: (1) clarification and expansion of factors that judges must consider when setting bail, (2) expansion of arrest and bail eligibility for repeat offenses and hate crimes, (3) broadening of bail eligibility for firearm-related offenses, (4) facilitating prosecution of gun trafficking cases, (5) closure of the "Raise the Age Loophole" and providing additional programs for youthful offenders, (6) extension and improvement of Kendra's Law, (7) where indicated, judges will be required to order mental health evaluations as a condition of pretrial release, and (8) investments in discovery, pretrial, and mental health services.

Equity Agenda

- \$50 million for the **Cannabis Social Equity Fund**, which when combined with \$150 million in private investment, will support capital costs associated with standing up dispensaries.
- \$4 million to assist **Socially and Economically-Disadvantaged Farmers**.



From left: AM Michaelle C. Solages, Lions Club Int'l President Douglas X. Alexander, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Sen. Roxanne Persaud at the Capitol in Albany.



Sen. Persaud opening "From Slavery to Juneteenth," an exhibit at the State Capitol in Albany during the month of June.



Sen. Persaud is joined on the Senate Floor by a delegation of constituents during the 51st Annual Caucus Weekend.

Upcoming Events

Community Fun Day:
Thursday, August 25, 2022
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Canarsie Park
(enter at East 88th Street)

Senior Resource Day:
Thursday, September 8, 2022
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
District Office
1222 East 96th Street
Brooklyn, NY

Other upcoming events will be listed on www.facebook.com/sd19senatorpersaud and at www.persaud.nysenate.gov



(Left) Sen. Persaud with representative from Brownsville In Violence Out at Health Resources Fair sponsored by One Brooklyn Health/ Brookdale Hospital Medical Center.



Sen. Persaud hosting the 2022 Annual Easter Egg Hunt.



(Left) Sen. Persaud hosting an Earth Day 2022 Information Distribution Event in Canarsie.



SENATOR ROXANNE J. PERSAUD'S Summer 2022 Newsletter: LEGISLATIVE SESSION WRAP-UP



Senator Roxanne J. Persaud
 1222 East 96th St.
 Brooklyn, NY 11236

PRSRT-STD
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 NEW YORK SENATE

Albany Office

409 Legislative Office Bldg.
 Albany, NY 12247

Phone: (518) 455-2788

District Office

1222 East 96th St.
 Brooklyn, NY 11236

Phone: (718) 649-7653

E-Mail: persaud@nysenate.gov

Website: [persaud.nysenate.gov](https://www.persaud.nysenate.gov)



SD19SenatorPersaud



@SenatorPersaud



@SD19SenatorPersaud



Sen. Persaud tours Brooklyn Gardens Elementary School's Edible Schoolyard.



Sen. Persaud and colleagues join a delegation of Bengali community leaders on the Senate Floor.



Sen. Persaud, Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and colleagues meet with NYPD representatives in Albany.



Sen. Persaud greets West Point Cadets on West Point Day in Albany.