

# MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION IN NYS



As part of the NYS Assn. of Black and Puerto Rican Legislators, Inc.'s 47th Annual Legislative Conference, State Senator Velmanette Montgomery and Assemblywoman Crystal Peoples-Stokes sponsored the "From Prisons to Pot: Marijuana Legalization & Reimagining New York State's Economy" Workshop with special guest Montel Williams. The workshop

addressed the health benefits of medical marijuana and explored legalization through a criminal justice and economic lens.

In 2014, New York became the 23rd state to legalize medical marijuana. Patients diagnosed with HIV/AIDS, cancer, ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease), Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, spinal cord damage, epilepsy, inflammatory bowel disease, damage to the nervous tissue of the spinal cord with objective neurological indication of intractable spasticity, neuropathies, Huntington's disease and PTSD are now eligible for medical marijuana.

Senator Montgomery continues her visionary leadership to spotlight issues important to her constituents and to build coalitions to create institutional change in our state. After the passage of "Raise the Age" reform last year, Senator Montgomery now turns the spotlight on the issue of marijuana legalization as a means to end mass incarceration, revitalize the economy in Upstate New York and provide an alternative to the use of opioids for pain relief.



Dear Neighbor,

It is my honor to serve as your representative in the New York State Senate.

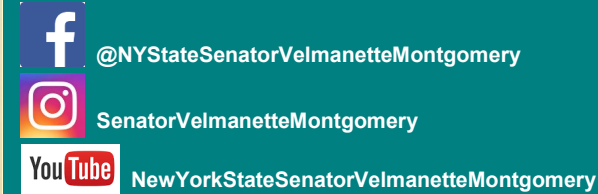
This year, thousands of constituents visited Albany to participate in the legislative process. I thank everyone for their advocacy as we fight for the issues important to our community.

Though we live in tumultuous times, I draw my inspiration from the millions of young people mobilizing across the country. A new generation of activists are reminding us what we need to do to take our country back.

I hope you will continue to remain engaged as we continue to resist and persevere to restore progressive values in our country.

Sincerely,  
Senator Velmanette Montgomery  
25th Senate District

Find me on social media:



New York State Senate  
Albany, NY 12247



## NEWS FROM STATE SENATOR VELMANETTE MONTGOMERY

Fall 2018

### New York State Senator VELMANETTE MONTGOMERY

**DISTRICT OFFICE:**  
30 Third Avenue, Suite 207  
Brooklyn, NY 11217  
Tel: (718) 643-6140  
Fax: (718) 237-4137

**ALBANY OFFICE:**  
903 Legislative Office Building  
Albany, NY 12247  
Tel: (518) 455-3451  
Fax: (518) 426-6854

E-MAIL: [montgome@nysenate.gov](mailto:montgome@nysenate.gov)  
WEBSITE: [montgomery.nysenate.gov](http://montgomery.nysenate.gov)

## SENATOR MONTGOMERY LEADS TRIBUTE TO DR. HAZEL N. DUKES



In commemoration of Women's History Month and the 100th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage in New York State, Senator Montgomery and her colleagues honored Dr. Hazel N. Dukes for her inspirational leadership and commitment to empowerment as President of the NAACP New York State Conference.

Senator Montgomery, Conference Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and members of the Senate Democratic Conference welcomed President Dr. Hazel Dukes and members of the NAACP to Albany to discuss their social justice legislative agenda. NAACP members met with legislators to discuss issues including the 2020 Census, redistricting and criminal justice reform. To learn more about the NYS NAACP, visit [www.nysnaacp.org](http://www.nysnaacp.org)

Senator Roxanne Persaud, Senator Liz Krueger, Dr. Hazel Dukes, Senator Brian Benjamin, Senator Velmanette Montgomery and Senator Kevin Parker.

In her remarks, Senator Montgomery noted:

"Hazel Dukes has been continuously outspoken on issues across our state for people who basically, very often, don't have their own voice. Today we honor her for her many years of service to New Yorkers, especially her courageous leadership on issues of youth, criminal justice reform and civil rights."



# 2018 ALBANY WRAP-UP

## Senator Montgomery is proud to report that several of her bills passed the Senate and/or Assembly this Legislative Session.

### LEGISLATION SIGNED INTO LAW

**"PAROLE TRANSPARENCY BILL" (S7333/A8960).** All board of parole administrative appeal findings and recommendations must be published within one hundred twenty days of the determination on a publicly accessible website that includes a word-searchable database. The Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) is required to provide electronic and print copies of such recommendations to all correctional facility law libraries on a quarterly basis (Chapter No.44).

**"CONSTRUCTION NOTIFICATION BILL" (S4519A/A5823B) - REQUIRES NOTICE TO ADJOINING PROPERTY OWNERS OF CONSTRUCTION OR DEMOLITION WORK. This bill was introduced as a direct result of complaints from homeowners in our community.** It requires the NYC Department of Buildings (DOB) to provide written notification to owners of adjoining property of construction or demolition work at the time when an application for construction or a permit is submitted. The DOB must provide proof of insurance together with the permit to the owners of adjoining property 30 days prior to the commencement of the construction or demolition work. (Chapter No. 217)

### BILLS THAT PASSED SENATE & ASSEMBLY AND AWAIT THE GOVERNOR'S APPROVAL



NYU LANGONE SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTERS

**"SBHC BILL" - CREATES A PERSONAL INCOME TAX CHECK-OFF BOX TO SUPPORT SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTERS (S4487B/A2660B).** The bill creates a School-Based Health Centers fund, managed by the State Comptroller, to support the expansion of medical services at existing school-based health center sites or to establish new sites throughout New York State. Senator Montgomery is a longtime advocate of School-Based Health Centers and there are 12 SBHCs located in the 25th Senate District.

**"BAM BILL" - ALLOWS THE BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC TO SERVE ALCOHOL TO ITS PATRONS (S8003A/A8897A).** The Brooklyn Academy of Music is a 150-year-old multi-arts center with world-renowned programming in theater, dance, music, opera, film, and more.

### BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE

**"YOUTHBUILD BILL" - NY STATE YOUTHBUILD ACT (S8073/A13A).** YouthBuild is a comprehensive program for unemployed, out-of-school youth ages 17-24, to obtain high school equivalency diplomas, job and leadership skills, secure employment, and go on to college or vocational school. This legislation would codify into law a new grant program under the NYS Department of Labor to create a permanent funding stream to allow for the expansion of services at existing programs and the creation of new YouthBuild programs statewide.

**"WATERFRONT BILL" - ALLOWS COMMUNITY BOARDS ACCESS TO FUNDING THROUGH THE NYS WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION PROGRAM (S4489/A2407).** This bill would allow New York City community boards to apply and receive grants, which shall not exceed 50% of the approved cost of the project, for waterfront revitalization programs for coastal areas and inland waterways. In 2007, Senator Montgomery authored a law that allowed New York City's 59 community boards to apply for and receive brownfield opportunity area grants to study areas affected by brownfield pollution. The "Waterfront bill" continues her legislative agenda of expanding resource opportunities for community boards who play an important role in dealing with land use and zoning issues as well as addressing the needs and issues facing our community.

**"REGENTS BILL" - REQUIRES THAT THE NYS BOARD OF REGENTS HOLD AT LEAST 2 MEETINGS A YEAR IN NEW YORK CITY (S3739/A6437).** The bill also requires announcements of the time, date, location and agenda at least three weeks before the meeting date to allow adequate time for public review. The bill also mandates that the public must be allotted at least thirty minutes to speak on any topic of the agenda, and that these meetings be webcast.

**"SOLAR TAX CREDIT BILL" - INCREASES THE PERSONAL INCOME TAX CREDIT FOR SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM EQUIPMENT (S4714/A5646).** This bill would raise the current allowable personal tax credit for solar energy equipment from \$5,000 to \$10,000, further encouraging New Yorkers to invest in environmentally friendly renewable energy sources like solar energy. The allowable personal tax credit for solar energy equipment has not been increased since 2005 despite the fact that the purchase and installation costs remain higher than most New Yorkers can afford.

**"CHILDHOOD CANCER BILL" - AUTHORIZES ISSUANCE OF LICENSE PLATES BEARING THE WORDS "CURE CHILDHOOD CANCER" (S4436/A1580).** The money raised through the issuance of this special license plate would establish and fund the Cure Childhood Cancer Trust Fund to support pediatric cancer care, research, treatment, and wellness programs.

### BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY

**"PROXIMITY BILL (APRIL'S LAW)" (S3727A/A1272A)** - This bill requires the Dept. of Corrections and Community Supervision to place incarcerated parents at correctional institutions and facilities closest to their children's

home. April, a youth person who worked with the Osborne Association, submitted this idea for legislation after meeting with the Senator.

**"WAGE INEQUALITY BILL" (S5480/A658)** - This bill implements the state policy of compensating employees in state service equally for work of equivalent value by eliminating wage inequality in job titles and position classifications which have been segregated by sex, race, or national origin.

### BILLS THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO FIGHT FOR

**"ANTI-SUSPENSION BILL"/SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE SCHOOLS ACT (S3036A/A3873A)** - This legislation would provide comprehensive reform of school discipline and codes of conduct to break the school-to-prison pipeline. Reforms include ending suspensions for K-3 students; restorative justice and other alternative discipline measures; and limiting the amount of time that a student can be out of school to 20 days and providing access to work and alternative instruction during the suspension.

**CIVICS EDUCATION BILL (S8958)** - To boost voter education and turnout, this bill would establish a civics education curriculum for schools in New York State. The curriculum would focus on state and local government, civic literacy, current political and community issues, methods of public participation, and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. The curriculum will also use a simulation-based approach.

**FREE TRANSPORTATION FOR CORRECTIONAL FACILITY VISITATION (S5693A/A7016A).** This legislation would reinstate the NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) program to provide free bimonthly transportation at no cost to enable families to visit their incarcerated loved ones.

**"CREDIT UNION BILL" (S5187/A5776) - EXPANDING THE BANKING DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT PROGRAM** to allow Credit Unions to participate in the Banking Development District program to increase access to banking services in underserved communities. Credit unions offer more member benefits while providing competitive and often better rates than traditional banks.

### SPOTLIGHT ON CO-SPONSORED LEGISLATION



and home equity fraud.

**DEED FRAUD PROTECTION BILL (S6171/A1408)** - This bill would strengthen and expand upon the Home Equity Theft Prevention Act of 2006 ("HETPA") by providing greater consumer protections for owners of homes that are either in default or in foreclosure. Senior homeowners are especially vulnerable to deed

**JUVENILE DELINQUENCY VIOLATIONS IN FAMILY COURT (S7885)** This legislation would ensure that adolescents adjudicated for violations (petty offenses) or charged with, or adjudicated for, violations of conditional discharges will not be placed on probation, or incarcerated.

**NYS SMART SCHOLARS PROGRAM & NYS PATHWAYS IN TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM EXPANSION (S9060/A11047).** This legislation would establish in statute, grant awards for school districts that participate in the NYS Smart Scholars and the NYS Pathways in Technology Early College High School programs which give disadvantaged youth the opportunity to earn at least 24 college credits while still in high school. The 25th Senate District is home to several Smart Scholar and Pathways in Technology Early College High School programs that are transforming the lives of young people.

**"RHA" - REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ACT (S2796/A1748).** This bill would update New York State law to codify Roe v. Wade and ensure that a woman's fundamental right to access reproductive healthcare, including the right to a medically safe abortion, is protected even if efforts are made to undermine it at the federal level.

**"CCCA" - COMPREHENSIVE CONTRACEPTIVE COVERAGE ACT (S3668/A1378).** The CCCA would amend state insurance and social service laws to require health insurance companies to cover all FDA-approved contraception without a copayment as well as voluntary sterilization procedures, contraceptive education and counseling, and related follow-up services. CCCA would also allow women access to 12 months of continuous contraception coverage providing consistency in care and a greater sense of ease, especially for women in rural areas.



### SENATOR MONTGOMERY VOTES "YES" ON LEGISLATION TO CREATE THE NYS COMMISSION ON PROSECUTORIAL CONDUCT (S.2412D/A.5285C)

The Commission would have authority to review the conduct of District Attorneys and Assistant District Attorneys and serve as a disciplinary entity designated to review complaints of prosecutorial misconduct. The Commission on prosecutorial conduct is modeled after legislation that established the state commission on judicial conduct. This new commission would help protect the integrity of the criminal justice system in New York. The Governor signed the bill into law on August 21, 2018 (Chapter No. 202).

IF YOU HAVE AN IDEA FOR NEW LEGISLATION, PLEASE CALL 718-643-6140 OR E-MAIL [MONTGOME@NYSenate.GOV](mailto:MONTGOME@NYSenate.GOV)



# CREATING NEW EDUCATIONAL PATHWAYS

Throughout my legislative career, I have fought to protect our most vulnerable youth and worked to develop solutions to address their needs. As the Ranking Member on the New York State Senate Committee on Children and Families and as a member of the Senate Education Committee, I am committed to supporting educational programs that empower young people to explore new opportunities and career pathways in our rapidly changing economy. The following is just a small sample of the innovative schools that are preparing students in the 25th Senate District for future careers.

## ALTERNATIVE AND TRANSFER HIGH SCHOOLS

For students who are over-aged and under-credited, education is a barrier to success. **Alternative and transfer high schools** help fill the void for students who have struggled in traditional high schools. Students benefit from small class sizes, rigorous instruction, college preparation, and job training. Comprehensive social services are provided on site to address the needs of students outside of the classroom. I am proud to represent five transfer high schools, each of which has their own unique programming. They all have learning to work (LTW), an in-depth job readiness and career exploration program, which connects students to paid internships in their communities. I encourage you to contact them if you know of any youth who may benefit from attending one.

## HISTORIC OLD BOYS HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS

### PATHWAYS TO GRADUATION (P2G)

832 Marcy Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11233  
718-636-5770

Pathways to Graduation (P2G), a free full-time program for young people 17-21 who seek to earn a high school equivalency diploma. Students may enroll throughout the year and are provided with support services as well as bilingual preparation. **Several students have also been hired out of their Bike Repair Program where young people learn applicable skills and donate refurbished bikes to the community.**



Pathways to Graduation (P2G) students at Old Boys High learn bike-repair skills as part of a collaboration with Recycle-A-Bicycle and Citibikes.

## BROOKLYN ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL

832 Marcy Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11233  
718-857-4237

Brooklyn Academy has partnered with several organizations to serve their students including: **CAMBA** – provides social workers and advocate counselors and sponsors LTW; **Columbia Teachers College School of Psychology** - provides free counseling and evaluations, **NYU Liberty** - provides tutoring and academic support; **BRIC-TV** - provides arts and media programming.

## DREAMS YOUTHBUILD TRANSFORMING LIVES IN BROOKLYN

DREAMS YouthBuild & Young Adult Training Program is Settlement Housing Fund's Brooklyn-based alternative school and vocational training program. YouthBuild is a comprehensive program for unemployed, out-of-school youth ages 17-24, to obtain high school equivalency diplomas, job and leadership skills, secure employment, and go on to college or vocational school. It is also one of the most effective and successful youth diversion programs in New York State. Additionally, YouthBuild students deliver hundreds of hours of community service while producing and preserving affordable housing in their communities. Since 1994, 41,000 units of affordable housing have been produced or upgraded by 150,000 YouthBuild students across the US. Over 5,000 of those students have been New Yorkers.



Senator Montgomery joined Reverend Dr. Robert M. Waterman, Pastor of Antioch Baptist Church, for a walkthrough of the newly renovated Neighborhood House. Under the supervision of Construction Supervisor Dathan Freeman, YouthBuild students honed their skills by renovating the aging brownstone adjacent to the church from the ground floor up. This included gut renovation of bathrooms, the relocation of pipes and water lines, electrical upgrades and building cabinetry. They also skim coated and repainted the walls, retiled floors, installed hard wood floors and installed new windows.

Senator Montgomery and Assemblywoman Diana Richardson host NYS Dept. of Labor Commissioner Roberta Reardon for a visit to DREAMS YouthBuild. The visit included a tour of an affordable housing unit currently being renovated by YouthBuild students and an opportunity to meet with Alexa Sewell, President of Settlement Housing Fund, Ditashiah Kohn, Program Director and alumni of the DREAMS YouthBuild program.



## KINGSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE: EXPANDING THE MARITIME EDUCATIONAL PIPELINE



Senator Montgomery and Captain Donovan Withers, Deputy Director of the Office of Maritime Technology visit training vessels used to teach students. CUNY 1 (above) and the Green "French Fry"



Boat (right), an old diesel ship retrofitted by students to run on recycled cooking oil from the school's cafeteria.

Kingsborough Community College, part of the City University of New York system, is the only community college in Brooklyn. Kingsborough's **Maritime Technology Program** offers courses in **Oceanography, Seamanship, Navigation, Marine Electronics, Ship Handling, Sailing, Marina Operations, Vessel Repair, Fiber-glassing, Welding, Diesel and Outboard Engines, Safety and Survival, First Aid, CPR, Fire Fighting and STCW Certification.**

Many Kingsborough graduates use credits to satisfy requirements for entry into the NYC Police and Fire Departments and work as NYC Police and Fire Officers on boats and on land. As a U.S. Coast Guard approved program, Kingsborough graduates can earn 225 days of sea-time that is applicable towards a Captains license or United States Merchant Marine Officers license.

The Maritime Technology Program, in collaboration with Kingsborough's pioneering College Now program, has also offered Maritime courses at New York Harbor High School (located on Governor's Island), including Introduction to Maritime Technology and Coastal Piloting and Seamanship. For more information about Kingsborough, visit <https://www.kbcc.cuny.edu>

### Students are trained for careers as:

- ◆ Motorboat operators
- ◆ Captains, Deckhands, Mates and Pilots
- ◆ Marina managers and service technicians
- ◆ Vessel service and repair workers
- ◆ Retailers and wholesalers
- ◆ Environmental consultants
- ◆ Engineers

## GOOD SHEPHERD SERVICES

Good Shepherd Services works in partnership with NYC DOE to create a highly personalized school environment where each student is known, respected and supported. In addition to their year-round academic program, Good Shepherd provides their students with services such as after-school and summer camps, college and career preparation, youth justice programs, and homeless youth services. They have three transfer high schools in the 25<sup>th</sup> Senate District:

### ◆ BROOKLYN FRONTIERS HIGH SCHOOL

112 Schermerhorn Street, Brooklyn, NY 718-935-3473  
Program requirements: Students must be entering 9th grade for the first time from middle school, have a record of being held back at least two times in elementary or middle school, and be no older than 16.

### ◆ SOUTH BROOKLYN COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

173 Conover Street, Brooklyn, NY 718-237-8902  
Program requirements: Students must be at least 16 years old, have been enrolled in a NYC high school, and have a history of truancy or have dropped out of school.

### ◆ RESEARCH AND SERVICE HIGH SCHOOL

1700 Fulton Street, Brooklyn, NY 718-467-1700  
Program requirements: Students must be at least 16 years old, have been enrolled in a NYC high school, and have a history of truancy or have dropped out of school.

## BROOKLYN COMMUNITY SERVICES (BCS)

### BROOKLYN HIGH SCHOOL FOR LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY SERVICE (BHLCS)

300 Willoughby Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11205 | 718-638-3062. BHLCS is a partnership between NYC DOE and BCS. Their program model includes advocate counselors who support each student in academics and community, life skills, college preparation and vocational training.



Students from South Brooklyn Community High School present Senator Montgomery with an award in recognition of her leadership in the fight to save transfer schools in New York City.



Senator Montgomery meets with students as part of P.S.287 Dr. Bailey K. Ashford School for Engineering, Arts and Technology's Annual Career Day. P.S. 287 is located in the heart of the Downtown Brooklyn Tech Triangle. Under the leadership of Principal Michelle Rawlins, the school strives to ensure that their students are college and career ready through use of upgraded teaching methods that include interactive technology, one-to-one tablets, coding and 3D printing for all students. P.S. 287 incorporates coding and innovation into their instructional programming using Makerbot and NAO humanoid robot technologies and are a Textbook Free Learning Environment. They make learning accessible for all students by using technology to accommodate the needs of diverse learners. For more information about P.S. 287, visit <https://ps287.weebly.com/>

State Senator  
**Velmanette Montgomery's**

Guide to  
Youth Career and  
Internship  
Opportunities



Senator Velmanette Montgomery with Dr. Rudy Crew, President of Medgar Evers College and CUNY and SUNY students she has been privileged to host in her office. (l to r: Fabian Smith, Legislative Aide and an alum of the NYS Democratic Conference Internship Program; Joanne Marius, 2018 NYS Senate Undergraduate Session Assistants Program; Monica Garay, 2018 CUNY Terence D. Tolbert Public Service Internship Program Graduate Fellow; and Shakti Robbins-Cubas, Community Liaison and an alum of the Caucus CUNY Scholars Program).

**TO REQUEST A COPY, PLEASE CALL 718-643-6140**

## STEAM CENTER AT THE BROOKLYN NAVY YARD

The Brooklyn STEAM Center is New York City's first public school program to be co-located within a business environment. The center will be nested within the 3rd floor of Building 77 on the Brooklyn Navy Yard, a 1,000,000 square-foot property which provides students with access to over 400 businesses and a 300-acre industrial park as an additional feature of their learning environment. Scholars attend the STEAM center in a shared instructional model, which means they get to spend a half of their school day at their academic high schools, and the other part of the day at the STEAM center majoring in one of the following five pathways: Computer Science, Culinary Arts and Business Management, Construction Technology, Design and Engineering, and Media and Film.

The STEAM Center works with eight local partner high schools across Brooklyn to provide CTE programming during the 11th and 12th grade for a half of each school day. During the 9th and 10th grade, students receive a series of exposure activities to help them select from 1 of the 5 pathways available at the center. The schools involved are: George Westinghouse Career and Technical Education High School, Benjamin Banneker Academy, Bedford Academy High School, High School for Global Citizenship, Science Skills Center High School for Science, Technology, and the Creative Arts, Science Technology and Research (STAR) Early College High School, Boys and Girls High School and Medgar Evers College Preparatory School. For more information, visit <http://www.brooklynsteamcenter.org/>

## HARBOR SCHOOL CELEBRATES 15TH ANNIVERSARY



The Urban Assembly New York Harbor School was created out of the belief that New York City youth, the natural resources of New York Harbor, and the New York metropolitan community collectively formed an untapped potential for excellence in secondary public education.

The Harbor School is one of the true gems in the New York City education system. Each day, the lives of young people are being transformed as they are introduced to career paths in the maritime industry.

The Harbor School is a Career and Technical Education school that offers technical credentials in 6 marine fields: Aquaculture, Marine Biology Research, Marine Systems Technology, Ocean Engineering, Professional Diving, and Vessel Operations. Today, Harbor School educates more than 500 students, many of whom graduate and go on to two or four year colleges; others transition directly into jobs in the New York Harbor and beyond.

As Harbor School celebrates its 15th anniversary, Senator Montgomery continues to work with education and community stakeholders to expand the pipeline to middle school students with the proposal to create a Harbor Middle School in Red Hook. To learn more about the Harbor School, visit [www.newyorkharborschool.org/](http://www.newyorkharborschool.org/)

**Kingsborough Community College's Department of Continuing Education offers a wide range of courses for children through seniors:**

- **COLLEGE FOR KIDS** provides children between the ages 5 to 17 with opportunities for hands-on study in subjects such as architecture, website development, Spanish, and even DJing, while also incorporating fun activities like swimming and basketball in the college's state-of-the-art gymnasium.
- **COLLEGE NOW** is a nationally recognized program that is in over 40 schools across Brooklyn. **The program provides rigorous, freshman-level, college credit and developmental coursework in all subjects, at no cost, to high school juniors and seniors** in an effort to prepare them for the educational and emotional changes that occur during their transformation into college freshmen.
- **MY TURN** is a tuition-free, college education program available to New York State residents ages 60 and older. For more information, call (718) 368-5079 or visit <https://www.kbcc.cuny.edu/myturn/>