

NEWS FROM

NEW YORK STATE SENATOR
BRAD HOYLMAN
(D) 27TH SENATE DISTRICT



June 2014

Dear Neighbor:

The 2014 legislative session came to an end during the late night hours on Friday, June 20. Hundreds of bills were passed by the State Senate in the last two weeks of the session, including some very significant ones I was proud to support. These include legislation authorizing New York City to **lower the citywide speed limit** to 25 mph, legalizing and regulating **medicinal marijuana**, closing the **Port Authority loophole** exempting it from New York State's Freedom of Information Law, and my legislation with Assembly Member Richard Gottfried paving the way for **50 more years of affordability at Penn South**, the 2,820 unit middle-income complex in the heart of our Senate District.

Unfortunately, many important pieces of legislation died in the Senate this year. The Senate leadership failed to bring my bill to prohibit licensed mental health professionals from engaging in so-called "**conversion therapy**" with minors to the Senate floor for a vote, even though it had enough bipartisan support to pass. Just today, the U.S. Supreme Court [decided](#) to decline to hear a challenge to California's 'conversion therapy' law, on which my bill is modeled. The court's decision is a milestone in our fight to outlaw this harmful and widely-discredited practice by licensed mental health providers, and is a sad and embarrassing reminder how New York lags behind other

states that are protecting LGBT kids. Other progressive priorities including **GENDA**, the **Women's Equality Act**, the **DREAM Act**, municipal control of the **minimum wage**, a **ban on hydrofracking**, and comprehensive **campaign finance reform**, met similar fates.

I am optimistic about the change of leadership slated to take place in the Senate next year, which will finally allow these and other forward-thinking bills to come to a vote and become law. In the meantime, I look forward to spending the next six months working in the neighborhoods of our district before I head back up to Albany in January.

Below you can find an update on some of my recent activities in our district, as well as information on my Senate **Summer Reading Program for students**, and a reminder to call me if you need **help applying for SCRIE** (the City's Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption program) now that we've raised the household income threshold to \$50,000 beginning July 1. As always, let me know if you have any questions about issues or if there are ways I can be helpful.

All best,



Brad Hoylman
State Senator
27th District

Continuing the Fight Against Hydrofracking

I was pleased to see today's [decision](#) by the New York State Court of Appeals that local governments have the power to ban hydraulic fracturing within their jurisdictions through the zoning process. Dozens of communities throughout New York State have passed local laws banning hydrofracking, and it's time for New York State to do the same. I will continue to fight against this environmentally-damaging process, and I am proud to co-sponsor legislation which would prohibit the practice of hydrofracking statewide.

Calling on the FCC to Scrutinize Comcast-Time Warner Merger

On June 16, I was joined by seven of my colleagues in sending a letter to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) asking it to carefully scrutinize a [proposed merger](#) of Comcast and Time Warner Cable. This merger would combine the two internet service providers lowest ranked on the American Customer Satisfaction Index, and give Comcast control of over 30 million subscribers, a roughly 30% share of the television

and internet services market. Such a monopoly would likely increase prices, cause declines in service, give the company undue control over the content consumers may access, and diminish overall industry standards, affecting not only Comcast's and Time Warner's customers but cable subscribers throughout the country. Please see our letter [here](#).

More Progress on 75 Morton School

Earlier this month, along with Assembly Member Deborah Glick, Council Member Corey Johnson, representatives of Congressman Jerry Nadler and Borough President Gale Brewer, as well as parent advocates, I met with the School Construction Authority (SCA) to discuss plans for the new District 2 middle school to be established at 75 Morton. The SCA has firmly committed to having the building ready to open in September 2017, and shared with us floor-by-floor plans that include 10 classrooms per grade level, a dedicated space for District 75 students, and an outdoor play space. Certain other elements, such as the possibility of a school-based health clinic and the design of the gymnasium and auditorium, were the subject of discussion at a school district-wide forum on June 16. Much work remains to be done between now and the time that the school opens, including a gut renovation of the existing building, asbestos abatement, and the removal of PCBs. I appreciate the speed with which SCA is moving forward on the building's design so that construction can begin, and I thank the agency for its willingness to engage the community in the decision-making process.



Fighting to Preserve Affordability at Stuyvesant Town-Peter Cooper Village

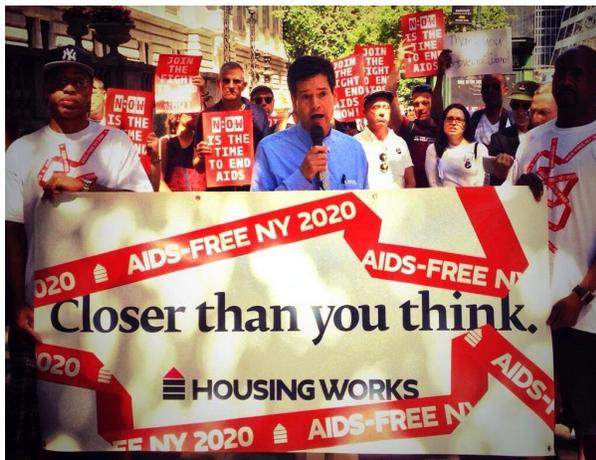
On June 13, I joined hundreds of Stuyvesant Town-Peter Cooper Village (ST/PCV) residents and fellow elected officials including Senator Chuck Schumer, Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, Council Member Dan Garodnick and Assembly Member Brian Kavanagh on the steps of City Hall to demand a tenant-led sales process to preserve affordability at the over-11,000 unit, historically middle-class complex.

CWCapital has made moves that would enable it to sell ST/PCV at open auction, raising the possibility that real estate investors will once again be allowed to make an over-leveraged gamble on the backs of ST/PCV residents. The 30,000 resident population of Stuy Town-Peter Cooper is larger than many cities in New York State. It's too important for government to sit on the sidelines again and let this community fall prey to real

estate speculators. I am working with my colleagues at the city, state and federal level to ensure Stuy Town tenants get a seat at the negotiating table, and preserve this affordable housing for future generations of New Yorkers.

Bike-Friendly Amtrak Cars Coming to New York

Last year, I reported on my efforts with U.S. Senator Charles Schumer and my colleague, New York State Senator Little (R-Queensbury), to compel Amtrak to add baggage cars capable of carrying bicycles on their Adirondack and Ethan Allen trains, which run from Penn Station to Albany and Saratoga, and other points north. Amtrak heeded our call and last July began accommodating bicycles on board in a demonstration program. I'm happy to report that the program has been a huge success, and on June 17 Amtrak announced that it will be using the new bicycle-friendly baggage cars on all 15 of its long-distance routes by the end of 2014. This includes the Lake Shore Limited Line, which runs between New York City and many upstate destinations, such as Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Utica and Albany, and points further west including Cleveland and Chicago. This new service will be a boon to the State and City: the new baggage cars are being built in New York State by Elmira-based CAF USA, and their use will encourage increased bicycle tourism. Please click [here](#) for more information.



Governor's Plan to End AIDS in New York

On June 29, I joined leading AIDS advocates at a press conference lauding Governor Andrew Cuomo for [announcing](#) a plan to end AIDS in New York State that puts New York at the forefront of the fight against the epidemic. As I said in *The Wall Street Journal*, although there is still no cure, scientific advances and widespread health care coverage through NY State of Health have put an end to the epidemic within our reach. I applaud Governor Cuomo for recognizing the potential to end AIDS in New York State by 2020 and for committing the human and financial resources necessary to develop and execute a plan to do so. I wish to particularly thank Housing Works, Treatment Action Group, ACRIA, GMHC, VOCAL-NY, ACT-UP, Harlem United, and the more than two dozen other HIV/AIDS and LGBT organizations that came together to make a strong and sustained case for this critical initiative. Please click [here](#) to see a letter to

Governor Cuomo supporting such a plan, which I spearheaded earlier this year and which was also signed by 19 of my Senate colleagues.

Expand the West Village Slow Zone

On June 2, I wrote to the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) to seek an expansion to its proposed West Village slow zone, which would impose a 20 mile-per-hour speed limit on the blocks from Houston Street to West 11th Street and from Hudson Street to 7th Avenue South. I echoed the request of Community Board 2 and PS 41 Principal Kelly Shannon that the eastern boundary be moved one block east to 6th Avenue. This additional area is home to many schools and institutions that serve youth and senior citizens, as well as many residential streets which are often subjected to fast and reckless driving. DOT recently responded that while expanding the currently planned slow zone would delay implementation, it is open to considering a separate slow zone between 6th and 7th Avenue South, and in the meantime will study the feasibility of installing speed humps around schools in the requested expansion area. I will be following up with DOT on this encouraging response. Please see my letter [here](#).

Stopping Illegal Hotels

This month, I joined State Senator Liz Krueger and many other local elected officials in writing to Mayor de Blasio to encourage him to issue formal memoranda in opposition to [A.7848/S.5039](#) and [A.7495/S.5637](#). These pieces of legislation would undermine the enforcement of our zoning and housing laws, and lead to an increase in the number of illegal hotels in residential buildings. Please see our letter [here](#).



Tenants Still Facing Rent Guidelines Board Increases

On June 16, I submitted [testimony](#) to the New York City Rent Guidelines Board (RGB) on its proposed rent increases of 0% to 3% for one-year lease renewals, and 0.5% to 4.5% for two-year lease renewals in rent-stabilized apartments. I noted that while many tenants are still reeling from the recession, and more than a third of renter households in the City paid 50% or more of their household income for rent in 2011, RGB data show landlords of rent stabilized properties have seen eight consecutive years of increased Net Operating Income. I urged the RGB to allow tenants to make up economic ground and to impose a freeze on rents for all rent-regulated apartments as

well as for lofts, hotels, rooming houses, single room occupancy buildings (SROs), and lodging houses. The RGB heeded that request for hotels, rooming houses, SROs and lodging houses but set rent increases for rent-stabilized and loft lease renewals at 1% and 2.75% for one- and two-year leases respectively. While these increases are lower than those we have seen historically, they are still too high for tenants struggling to make up economic ground after falling so far behind. The RGB's order underscores our need to continue working to strengthen our rent laws to protect our tenants and our precious affordable housing stock.



Students: Join My Summer Reading Program

My colleagues in the New York State Senate and I, in conjunction with the New York State Library, are offering a summer reading program to help students to keep their skills honed and minds sharp. Participating students will use an online journal to keep track of their reading progress throughout the summer, and children who submit a completed journal will receive a Summer Reading Certificate. You can access the online journal [here](#) or by visiting my website at <http://hoylman.nysenate.gov> and clicking the Summer Reading Program button on the left hand column. Please join me this summer in promoting literacy and indulging in the wonderful world of books.

Call me for Help Applying for SCRIE

As a result of action taken at the state and local level, effective July 1, the household income cap for New York City's Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) program will increase from \$29,000 to \$50,000. To be eligible for SCRIE, you must be a rent-regulated tenant-of-record, 62-years of age or older, have a household income of \$50,000 or less, and a rent amount that exceeds one-third of your household income to be eligible. If you have questions or need help applying, please contact me at 212-633-8052 or hoylman@nysenate.gov.

Three Citizen Preparedness Trainings in Our District this Summer

I'm co-sponsoring three Citizen Preparedness Trainings Governor Cuomo is sponsoring in our Senate District this summer. The first is on Wednesday, July 23 at 6:00 p.m. at Fordham University, 113 West 60th Street, the second is on Tuesday, July 29 at 6:00

p.m. at Cooper Union, Frederick P. Rose Auditorium, 41 Cooper Square, and the third is on Tuesday, August 12 at 7:00 p.m. at Waterside Plaza Community Room, 15 Waterside Plaza. Through the Citizen Preparedness Corps Training Program, approximately 100,000 New Yorkers will be provided with the tools and resources to prepare for emergencies and disasters. Each household that participates will receive a free Citizen Preparedness Corps Response Starter Kit, which includes a plastic drop cloth, light stick, regular flashlight, first aid kit, and more. All participants must register in advance at www.prepare.ny.gov or by calling Governor Cuomo's Special Assistant for Community Affairs, Erik Bottcher, at 212-681-4605.

Free Summer Meals for Kids 18 and Under

The City's free breakfast and lunch program for children 18 and under continues on weekdays during the summer at hundreds of public schools, community pool centers, New York City Housing Authority complexes, and other locations around the city. For more information, click [here](#).