

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

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Summer Newsletter

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NEW YORK STATE SENATE



SENATOR ROXANNE J. PERSAUD
19TH SENATE DISTRICT

PLEASE RESPOND TO:

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Dear Neighbor:

On April 1, 2016, my colleagues and I passed the sixth consecutive on-time Budget. While this Budget did not produce everything we had hoped for, it consisted of a \$156 billion spending plan including: tax cuts for middle income taxpayers, a minimum wage increase, \$56 million restoration for Basic and Enhanced STAR saving, a SUNY and CUNY tuition freeze; and more than \$1 billion for the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP).

I am happy to report that the Paid Family Leave was passed and will be implemented over the next four years. This program will assist employees who have been employed at their current jobs for at least six months and need to spend time with a new child or a sick family member. This initiative will provide protection and essential financial resources to employees, thus allowing them to be with their loved ones.

Helping our seniors gain access to their prescription drugs is vital. The Budget fully funded New York State's Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Program (EPIC); \$131.5 million was allocated to the program to help in prescription drug costs. Funding was also allocated to ensure care, services and information are provided for aging adults.

The Legislature was instrumental in ensuring that New York City did not shoulder a significant measure of financial responsibility in terms of Medicaid and the City University of New York (CUNY).

At the end of the of the 2016 Legislative Session, I am happy to report that one of my key bills which relates to "Congregate Services Initiative for the Elderly" passed in the State Senate. There were many important pieces of legislation that came across my desk that I supported: safe staffing for nurses, academic credits for veterans, a domestic abuse hotline for teens, establishment of a New York health plan and maternal depression treatment. Your voice makes a big difference in Albany. Please feel free to contact my office and let us know your feelings on legislation being considered in the Senate. You can send me a message on my Senate Page letting me know how you would like me to vote on any piece of legislation in which you are interested.

As you take the time to read through this newsletter, please know that I appreciate the time that you have invested in making our community safer and stronger. My office is always open to you. Please let us know how we can better serve you – whether it is a program or services that we can collaborate on, an idea for legislation or a constituent service we can provide, we will be happy to help. Together we will continue to make Senate District 19 a wonderful place to live, work and raise our families.

Yours in Partnership

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

Roxanne



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Roxanne J. Persaud
19th Senatorial District

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LEGISLATION

Each year thousands of bills are introduced in the State Senate for consideration to become a law. These bills/pieces of legislation derive from many sources. In addition to elected officials presenting their ideas for changes to the laws, occasionally constituents contact their elected officials regarding a matter they believe needs to be changed. Sometimes new ideas are introduced by community groups, organizations or concerned citizens who may have a suggestion of how to improve the quality of life for all New Yorkers. This year two of the bills I introduced passed in the Senate. The following are some of the legislation that I presented. Please feel free to contact my office and let us know if you have an idea that will help make a difference.

For detailed information on any bill, please visit WWW.Persaud.NYSENATE.GOV

Bill Number S8098 PURPOSE: To provide financial literacy services to the elderly. This bill was signed into law by Governor Cuomo on July 21, 2016.

Bill Number S6657A PURPOSE: Requires maternal health care providers to screen new mothers for maternal depression while providing prenatal, postnatal, and pediatric care.

Bill Number S6967 PURPOSE: To prohibit the sale of ammunition to any person not authorized to possess a weapon, regardless of type, thus keeping ammunition out of the hands of unlicensed users and to prevent illegal trafficking.

Bill Number S6968 PURPOSE: To limit the sale of ammunition designed for use in assault weapons, to keep assault weapon ammunition out of the hands of unlicensed users and to prevent the illegal trafficking of ammunition.

Bill Number S7140 PURPOSE: Prohibits the parking of school buses on residential streets between the hours of 5:00 p.m to 5:00 a.m.

Bill Number S7808 PURPOSE: This prohibits the use of person's electronic signature without their consent.

Change Of Information

As life takes us through many twists and turns, we experience many significant milestones and changes. Some experiences are filled with joy while other times we are presented with grief. As some of these significant adjustments occur, it is very important to inform the Board of Elections so they can make note of these events that might affect where you vote, or whether you receive important information from your elected officials. If you have changed your address, name or if a loved one has died, please let the Board of Elections know as soon as possible so they may change their files and update the information.

Website:

<http://vote.nyc.ny.us/html/voters/where.shtml>

Veterans' Hall of Fame

On May 20, 2016, at a ceremony honoring veterans from across the state, Carlton Richardson from Senate District 19 was inducted into New York State Senate 2016 Veteran's Hall of Fame. Sergeant Richardson, who valiantly served his country, continues to provide assistance to the community. We are honored to have outstanding men and women who have served our country so we could enjoy the freedom we do today.



Carlton Richardson joined the United States Marine Corps in 1987, and his hard work and determination earned him the rank of Sergeant. He served in Bahrain in the Middle East during the Gulf War. Sergeant Richardson was awarded a Medal of Honor, the Kuwaiti Liberation Medal, the South West Asia Service Medal with two Bronze Stars, a Certificate of Commendation and a Good Conduct Medal.

Woman of Distinction

Each year the New York State Senate recognizes an outstanding female from each Senate District whose selfless work and contributions have improved the quality of life for the community. Ms. Inez Rodriguez is Senate District 19, 2016, Woman of Distinction.



Inez Rodriguez has been a community activist for more than 30 years. She currently serves as the Tenant Association President at Boulevard Houses in New York City Housing Authority (Brooklyn), holding the titles of Vice-President and President of Boulevard Houses for approximately 16 years. A founding member of "Grandmother's Love Over Violence," Ms. Rodriguez is committed to getting the word out that "Grandmothers got power."

Safe Gaming

Nintendo, the Pokémon Company and Google-spinoff Niantic, Inc. recently released the newest game in the wildly popular Pokémon franchise, Pokémon GO, and this release went straight to smart phones. Users of Android and iOS phones are introduced not to a fantasy world but to a GPS map of their surroundings, with certain landmarks, institutions and notable features of locations serving as “pokéstops” for people to pick up items and scour for Pokémon.

However, many if not most, major newspapers and periodicals have raised a variety of safety concerns, from users forgetting the real world is around them to vulnerabilities of the game to data theft. In an effort to raise awareness of these issues, I sent a letter to the game developer, Niantic, Inc., and asked the company to institute more and smarter warnings.

I’m excited that people, especially children, will get to learn more about the world around them. However, the application needs a warning or a reminder to make sure kids and other users are not too distracted to remember the world around them. It’s great to see that features of our neighborhoods are interactive parts of the game and give people some insight into their surroundings. But there has to be something that helps snap people back to reality from time to time, and hopefully help prevent injuries and accidents.

I especially urge parents to talk to their children who use the application and caution them to:

- **Be alert at all times**
- **Stay aware of your surroundings**
- **Play in pairs or as a group to ensure safety**
- **Not to play when they are engaged in other activities such as driving, riding a bike, or walking fast**
- **Be respectful of sacred and private property and rules of an establishment**
- **Remind them of the concern of “stranger-danger”**

And for all persons of any age who use the application, be aware that third party applications can retrieve sensitive data from your phone.

On July 18, 2016 I sent a letter to John Hanke, Chief Executive Officer at Niantic, Inc. urging him and Niantic, Inc. to add a new layer of warnings to Pokémon GO. The purpose of new warnings is to help players, especially children, curb the numerous incidents of injury, near-accidents, and problematic behavior that are littering tabloids and newspapers globally.



Persaud.nysenate.gov

In Albany and Around the District



It was an honor to observe Dominican Heritage with my Senate and Assembly colleagues.



Patient safety is important and necessary for all patients. I joined New York State nurses and concerned citizens in their fight to have this measure brought to the forefront.



Celebrating Caribbean Heritage in Albany was educational and enjoyable. (picture – Senator Persaud and Hon. Melba P. Brown).



I joined my legislative colleagues in the celebration of Haitian Flag Day in Albany. This event celebrated the culture, heritage and unity of the Haitian people.

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Outstanding Youth

On May 19, 2016, Chassidy David, a resident of Senate District 19, was bestowed the title of New York State Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year. Chassidy who has attended Madison Square Boys & Girls Club for the past three years will be going to Emerson College for Filmmaking in the fall. She says that her "experience at the Boys & Girls Club has been nothing short of a blessing."

Chassidy David meets with Senator Persaud during her visit to the Capitol

Events in Albany and the District

Whether in Albany or here in the District, I enjoy meeting with constituents and celebrating the rich diversity each nation and culture contributes to making New York the best place to live. Please feel free to contact my office and inform the staff of upcoming events in your neighborhood.

New York State Senate
Albany, NY 12247



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Roxanne J. Persaud

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Upcoming Events

August 16th

(11:00 am – 2:00 pm) Senator Persaud Mobile Office at Arts East New York, Inc. - 534 Livonia Ave

August 18th

(7:00 am – 8:30 am) Junius Street Train Station – Junius Street and Livonia Avenue (IRT New Lots Line)

August 18th

(1:00 pm – 6:00 pm) Family Fun Day at Canarsie Park (enter Seaview Ave. and East 88th St.)

August 25th

(7:00 am – 8:30 am) Livonia Avenue Train Station – New Lots and Van Sinderen Avenue (BMT Canarsie Line)

August 25th

(5:00 pm – 9:00 pm) Movie Night at Canarsie Park

August 27th

(10:00 am - 1:00 pm) Bike East 2016, at Linden/Gershwin Park

August 28th

(7:00 am) 2016 Bike Tour Team at Prospect Park (Parkside Avenue)

September 8th

(11:00 am - 2:00 pm) Grand Parents/Senior Celebration Day at Senator Persaud's District Office

Please Check Online For More Information