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Assembly Passes Legislative Package to Protect Our Immigrant Communities

Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner (D-Bronx, 77th AD), along with her colleagues, helped pass two critical pieces of legislation to protect 4.4 million immigrants in New York. These bills will protect immigrants by:

- Preventing state and local agencies from inquiring about the immigration status of a person seeking assistance, benefits or services; and
- Barring state and local agencies from assisting in the creation of a registry based on race, color, creed, gender, sexual orientation, religion, or national or ethnic origin; and
- Making clear that information provided in support of an application under the recently established New York City municipal ID card program may not be released; and
- Reducing by one day the maximum potential term of imprisonment for misdemeanors in this state; and
- Allowing noncitizen college-bound students who meet certain eligibility requirements to access the state Tuition Assistance Program (TAP), other educational assistance programs and similar programs at community colleges.

“In my district, the 77th Assembly District, more than half of the 125,544 people I represent in the Bronx speak a language other than English at home,” said Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner. “Our various backgrounds, cultures and languages are what make us great. Unfair policies and restrictions do not.”

New York State Assembly Delivers Comprehensive Criminal Justice Reform

Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner (D-Bronx, 77th AD) joined her colleagues in passing a comprehensive package of legislation to address New York State's criminal justice system. These reforms include raising the age to protect our youth, ensuring fair and effective prosecution, reducing recidivism and offering tools for individuals to succeed following incarceration. These include:

- Raising the age of adult criminal responsibility from 16 to 18 years of age and prohibiting the placement of anyone under the age of 18 in any adult jail or prison; and
- Instilling confidence that our criminal justice system is impartial and fair by establishing an Office of Special Investigation within the office of the New York State Attorney General to investigate when a civilian dies either in law enforcement custody or after an encounter with a law enforcement officer; and
- Requiring a court to release limited grand jury information in certain high-profile cases where the grand jury does not approve charges or reduces all charges to one or more non-felony offenses; and
- Changing the Criminal Procedure Law, which would promote more fair and transparent proceedings
- Enabling charitable bail organizations to provide more effective assistance to deserving indigent persons in need of such services; and
- Curtailing the lifelong effects associated with carrying a criminal record for minor marijuana offenses; and
- Improving rehabilitation within our prison system by limiting the use of solitary confinement, prohibiting the use of confinement for someone under the age of 21 and for persons with mental illness or physical or developmental disabilities; and
- Promoting rehabilitation and preventing recidivism by allowing people to be able to find and maintain gainful employment through a measure often referred to as "Ban the Box." The bill is designed to assure that people who may have a past conviction are not denied all consideration whatsoever in finding employment.

"Addressing the many shortcomings of our current criminal justice system must start with raising the age for our youth who find themselves on the wrong side of the law," said Assemblywoman Joyner. "By raising the age of criminal responsibility to 18 years old, we will eliminate the possibility of jail or prison and reduce recidivism in favor of affording our youth the opportunity to grow and better themselves with supportive and educational interventions. Especially in communities of color, raising the age will not hold these individuals to prior mistakes made when they were 16 or 17 and will allow them to be productive members of our society."

New York State Assembly Protects Women's Reproductive Rights

Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner (D-Bronx, 77th AD) helped pass two critical pieces of legislation to strengthen women's reproductive rights by supporting a woman's right to an abortion in New York State and require insurers to continue covering contraception at no cost to the consumer.

There are 31 states with laws and regulations in place that put obstacles in the way of women obtaining access to abortions. In 2016 alone, 14 states passed new laws to further restrict this constitutional right.

"Women are fighting for their reproductive freedom, pushing back against what seems to be never-ending attacks on our rights," Assemblywoman Joyner said. "A woman and her doctor know what's best for her health – not the government and not an insurance company."

New York State Assembly Support Ethics Reform by Stripping Pensions from Corrupt Public Officials of Pension Benefits & Regulating Outside Income

Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner (D-Bronx, 77th AD) announced that she voted to make government more accountable to New Yorkers. Through various measures, Assemblywoman Joyner and her colleagues reinforced their commitment to ethics reform by stripping corrupt public officials of pension benefits and regulating outside income for legislators.

These ethics reform initiatives include:

- A referendum to amend the state constitution, which would strip taxpayer-funded pensions from public officers convicted of corruption; and
- A joint resolution was passed requiring legislators in both houses to submit information about their outside income to the independent Legislative Ethics Commission (LEC), which will then issue an advisory opinion on whether a conflict of interest exists.

Policy Brief Series from Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner

To better explain her legislation, **Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner** has created a new policy brief series to better communicate bills and policies that she has supported – and continues to support – as your state elected representative in Albany. Each bill helps to tackle real issues that affect our lives daily in the 77th Assembly District.

Please click each brief to read more:

- [**Policy Brief - What is adequate for Bronx families?**](#)
- [**Policy Brief - Protecting tenants from fraudulent landlords**](#)
- [**Policy Brief - Providing benefits for MTA Workers who are assaulted on the job**](#)
- [**Policy Brief - Stopping Rent Increases for Disabled Tenants**](#)
- [**Policy Brief - Offering Youth a Second Chance**](#)
- [**Policy Brief - Addressing the Bronx's Asthma problem**](#)
- [**Policy Brief - Rent-Landlord Discrimination**](#)
- [**Policy Brief - Need for Court Translations**](#)
- [**Policy Brief: Clarity Around Death Behind Bars**](#)
- [**Policy Brief: Bronx Children's Museum**](#)
- [**Policy Brief - Legionnaires' Prevention**](#)
- [**Policy Brief - Maternal Depression**](#)
- [**Policy Brief - Illegal Day Care Centers**](#)