



Assemblyman **Andrew Hevesi**

Fall 2021 Update – Assembly District 28

Dear Neighbor,

It is an honor and privilege to serve as your representative in the New York State Legislature. As Summer 2021 and our state's pandemic recovery continue, I wanted to update you on the progress and victories we made during this year's legislative session. This update reflects the tireless efforts of the staff in my district and Albany offices as they continue to work to assist our neighbors, as well as lead numerous efforts to assist the most vulnerable New Yorkers throughout our state. I am proud to work with them. We look forward to working with you and for you to rebuild our communities, our state and our country together.

Sincerely,

Andrew Hevesi
Member of the Assembly

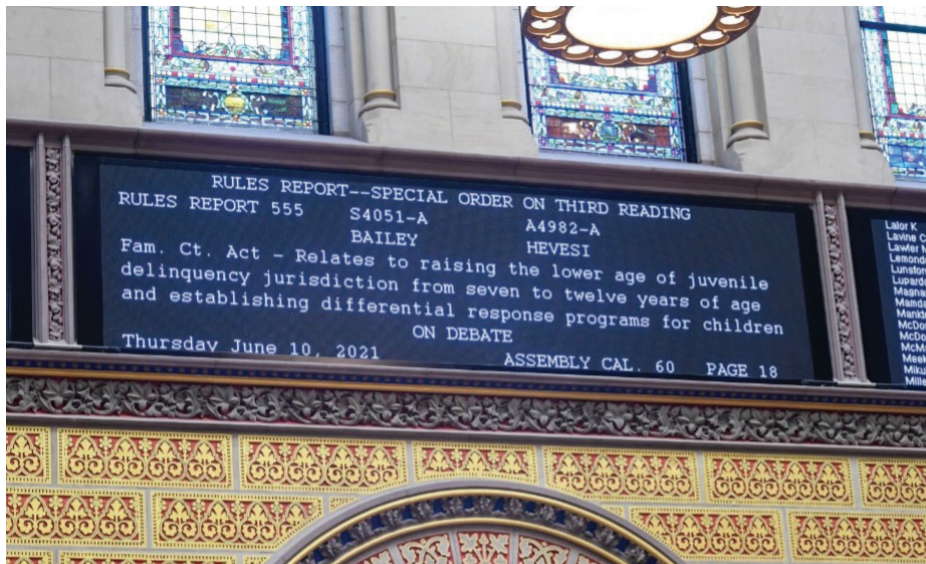


Assemblyman Hevesi Passes Legislation Raising the Lower Age at Which a Child can be Prosecuted as a Juvenile Delinquent

Assemblyman Hevesi championed Assembly bill A.4982, which raises the lower age of juvenile delinquency, from seven years old to twelve years old, and creates differential response programs and services for children under the age of twelve who would have otherwise been brought within the jurisdiction of family court and the juvenile justice system.

The American Academy of Pediatrics has found that 90% of justice-involved youth have experienced at least one form of childhood trauma, and according to the National Child Traumatic Stress Network the average justice-involved youth will have experienced 5 different forms of childhood

Continued on page 2



Continued from page 1

trauma, 62% of whom having experienced that trauma within the first 5 years of life. These are our little ones, and rather than help them get the services and support they need to succeed and ensure they are not doomed or defined by their trauma, our state has put them on a trajectory to fail, this legislation seeks to correct that course.

We know that youth who have high numbers of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and have endured childhood trauma are at a higher risk of experiencing a range of problems through adulthood including difficulty in school, alcohol and substance abuse, suicide, homelessness, obesity, asthma, cancer, heart disease, auto immune disease, cardiovascular disease, generational trauma, generational poverty, and incarceration and recidivism. However when traumatized children receive the proper supports, services, and protective factors, the likelihood of lasting negative impacts into adulthood stemming from childhood trauma decrease significantly. Exposing children to the family court and juvenile justice system, handcuffing them, interrogating them and placing them in pre-trial detention only further traumatizes these youth rather than helping them become the successful adults they can be.

Passing this crucial legislation is also a racial justice issue. In 2019 in NYC, nearly 9 out of 10 (86%) delinquency petitions filed against children under 12 involved Black or Latinx children. This is despite the fact that Black and Latinx youth represent only 22% and 36% of the City's children, respectively. In the rest of New York State, 31% of delinquency petitions filed for children under 12 were black youth who represent only 15% of the population in the rest of state. This disproportionate representation of youth of color in the system is inherently racist and speaks to the fact that Black and brown children are often adultified, that is looked at by authority figures as older than they really are. Earlier this year we all saw a 9 year old black girl pepper sprayed and aggressively put in the back of a cop car – no child should experience this, this rarely if ever happens to white children.

Most 7 to 11 year olds are brought in on charges of vandalism, stealing, or fighting, none of these acts can be properly addressed through the justice system which will only further penalize and traumatize these youth. Providing them with services, meeting their needs, and treating them like the children that they are is what our state should be in the business of doing.

The legislature made great strides to raise the age of criminality, this bill is a follow up to those efforts. No child, especially those as young as 7 should have to endure the trauma of the court and juvenile justice systems, especially when we know those experiences lead to worse outcomes. This bill has passed in both the Senate and Assembly and awaits the Governor's signature to be signed into law.

Assemblyman Hevesi Distributes Free Personal Protective Equipment throughout the Pandemic



As the COVID-19 vaccine rollout began in 2021, it was important that New Yorkers remained vigilant in their efforts to stop the spread by continuing to abide by mask wearing mandates issued by the Center for Disease Control (CDC). As vaccines were being taken, Assemblyman Hevesi continued his work with community partners to organize face mask and hand sanitizer distributions throughout the district.

After months of distributions of personal protective equipment (PPE), over 100,000 masks and 10,000 bottles of hand sanitizers were distributed to constituents weekly at the Forest Hills Green Market. Assemblyman Hevesi also personally delivered thousands of additional masks, and gallon jugs of sanitizer to nonprofit organizations within the our communities such as Forestdale, the SCO Family of Services, the Fortune Society, the Coalition for Homeless Youth, the Floating Hospital, Common Point Queens, Coalition for Hispanic Family Services, Queens Community House, New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence at the Korean American Family Service Center, the Coalition for the Homeless, Safe Horizon, and Sanctuary for Families.

As New York State continues to re-open, it is crucial that we continue to trust in science, get vaccinated, and work together to make sure this virus and its variants never spread to the levels seen at the height of the pandemic. We must learn lessons from this crisis and be proactive rather than reactive in our efforts to ensure a safe and healthier future for all New Yorkers.

Assemblyman Hevesi's Passes Two Pieces of Legislation to Assist Survivors of Human Trafficking

Assemblyman Hevesi's legislation which extends the statute of limitations to 15 years for a survivor of human trafficking to bring a civil court action against the perpetrator or anyone who knowingly profited from these despicable crimes passed both the Senate and Assembly this year.

This new bill adds 5 years to the current 10-year statute of limitations for those trafficked as adults and goes even further for individuals that were trafficked as minors and persons with disabilities.

Currently these survivors have only 3 years from the time they reach the age of majority at 18 or are legally no longer incapacitated to bring a civil cause of action. This extension adds an additional 12 years to bring civil action for human trafficking survivors who were trafficked as minors or those with disabilities.

Scientific evidence and lived experience have proven that it can take time, years, even decades for survivors to reconcile the trauma of sexual violence and the exploitation of trafficking and decide to come forward. Many never do, but survivors who choose to come forward should not be prohibited from bringing a cause of action against these perpetrators.

Not only does this legislation extend the statute of limitations, it also expands the type of compensation survivors may be entitled to from just the recovery of damages and reasonable legal fees to include actual, compensatory and punitive damages, injunctive relief, or any combination thereof.

Nothing can undo or make right the experience of survivors of human trafficking. However, this legislation will allow for some form of remuneration and pursuit of justice should survivors seek it.

A separate bill, also authored by Assemblyman Hevesi, would require law enforcement entities to inform those who have self-identified as, or they have reason to believe may be, subject to human trafficking, on the availability of supports including social and legal services.

Currently both pieces of legislation await the Governor's signature.

Assemblyman Hevesi Partners with Local Leaders for Graffiti Clean-Ups

Over the past year, there has been an unfortunate increase of graffiti within the district, much of which has been placed on our local, small businesses. Assemblyman Hevesi's office has begun working with various community partners including the 112th Precinct and individual volunteers to organize clean-ups throughout our neighborhood to paint over this graffiti. Special thanks to the various local businesses and the NYPD for their coordination and assistance in cleaning up our neighborhoods. If you own a business that has been tagged by graffiti and would like it removed, free of charge, please contact our office at 718-263-5595.



Assemblyman Hevesi Passes Legislation Advancing Disability Rights

As part of the legislature's Disability Advocacy Day, Assemblyman Hevesi's bill to ensure that proper and substantial weight be given to a client's treating physician when determining employability for public assistance, passed in both the Senate and Assembly. Too often the opinion of an agency doctor, who spends only minutes examining someone, is given credence over the findings of the person's treating physician, who may have been treating them for years. This results in improper employability determinations for people with disabilities that in turn lead to sanctions and loss of benefits, further marginalizing and discriminating against those with disabilities. This legislation awaits the Governor's signature.

Assemblyman Hevesi Helps Constituents Navigate Unemployment Hurdles

The COVID-19 pandemic brought one of the worst economic crises in state history along with it. One month into the initial lockdown in April of 2020, the state's unemployment rate skyrocketed to 15.5%, leaving millions of New Yorkers vulnerable during one of the most uncertain time periods in history.

Assemblyman Hevesi negotiated to ensure the state provided funds for essential assistance, including expanded Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits, childcare assistance, nutritional support, and rent assistance, amongst numerous other programs, and in addition Assemblyman Hevesi and his staff worked directly with government agencies to ensure these supports were fully and effectively distributed. Since March 2020, Assemblyman Hevesi and his staff have helped more than 250 constituents navigate hurdles in receiving UI, and helped hundreds more receive essential support through other programs.

If you, or someone you know, are in need of support, please contact the Assemblyman at (718) 263-5595 or email Hevesia@nyassembly.gov.

New York State Assembly, Albany, NY 12248



Assemblyman
**Andrew
HEVESI**
Update

Fall 2021



Assemblyman
ANDREW HEVESI

District Office:

*70-50 Austin Street, Suite 118
Forest Hills, NY 11375
718-263-5595*

Albany Office:

*Room 626, Legislative Office Bldg.
Albany, NY 12248
518-455-4926*

Email: [*hevesia@nyassembly.gov*](mailto:hevesia@nyassembly.gov)