



Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi

2023 Session Wrap-up

Dear Neighbor,

Now that we have completed the 2023-24 legislative session and the 2023-24 state budget, I wanted to provide you with some updates on the many budgetary and policy victories that we have been able to secure so far this year. In addition, I wanted to update you on my office's continuing legislative priorities and several ongoing local initiatives.

If you have any suggestions for new or pending legislation, or if my office may be of assistance locally, please contact us at (718) 263-5595, hevesia@nyassembly.gov. You can also follow @AM_AndrewHevesi on twitter for legislative and community updates, or sign up for email-blasts by visiting nyassembly.gov/mem/Andrew-Hevesi/enews/.

Thank you again for the privilege of serving as your representative in the state legislature. Wishing a great summer to you and your loved ones.

Sincerely,

Andy Hevesi
28th Assembly District

Assemblyman Hevesi Delivers for New York's Children and Families in the 2023-24 Budget

As Chair of the Children and Families Committee, Assemblyman Hevesi led the charge on a number of budget initiatives that will improve the lives of New Yorkers and protect and support our children and families.

Expanding the Child Tax Credit

This year's budget successfully amended New York State's child tax credit to allow families with children under 4 years of age, who were previously excluded from accessing the credit, to be eligible. Prior to this change, New York was the only state in the nation to exclude the youngest children from this benefit despite scientific evidence indicating the crucial need during these important developmental years. Now, thanks to the leadership of Assemblyman Hevesi, Senators Gounardes and Cooney, and several advocacy organizations, 580,000 New York tax filers with 791,000 of New York's children will now be eligible to receive the credit.

Increasing the Child Welfare Housing Subsidy

Thanks to Assemblyman Hevesi's leadership, the child welfare housing subsidy, which is designed to keep children out of foster care and assist those currently in foster care to leave that system, was successfully increased from \$300 to \$725 a month. The \$300 a month level had not been increased since the child welfare housing subsidy was created in 1988 to address the growing crisis levels of children in foster care at that time. Assemblyman Hevesi had written a law several years ago which allowed youth in foster care who received the subsidy to live with a roommate. The increase in the subsidy

amount this year builds off of that law, and the Assemblyman will continue his work on this subsidy to extend the age of subsidy recipients from 21 to 24 years old in order to address the reality that approximately 1/3 of foster youth who exit foster care experience homelessness.

Securing an additional \$500 million for Child Care Workforce Recruitment and Retention

This money will be used to:

- Provide wage supplements for all 250,000 child care workers in New York State
- Give child care providers funds to enhance their efforts to recruit and retain high quality staff
- Assist families with child care subsidies to find appropriate providers to care for their children

Providing \$1 million for Help Me Grow

This program:

- Provides primary prevention / early intervention services to children and families including screening and referrals that help build collaboration across health care, early care and education, and family support providers.

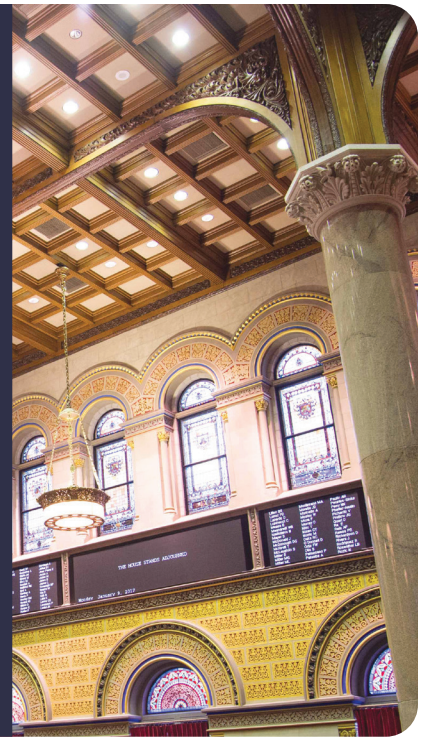
Allocating \$500,000 to Boys and Girls Clubs

These programs:

- Throughout New York State will now be able to screen children for Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) / childhood trauma and provide trauma informed care.

Additional 2023-24 Final Enacted Budget Highlights

- **\$1 billion** to strengthen mental health programs throughout the state
- **\$400 million** for the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF)
- **\$135 million** to provide free school meals to an additional 300,000 New York Students to fully reimburse school meals
- **\$100.7 million** to protect abortion access and strengthen New York State's Safe Harbor Access
- **\$22 million** for the Hunger Prevention Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP)
- **\$1.25 million** for the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP) residents at long-term care facilities with advocates to protect their rights and well-being
- Rejected SUNY and CUNY tuition increases for NYS resident undergraduates and provides **\$1.1 billion** in capital funding for CUNY and **\$1.9 billion** for SUNY
- Requires most new buildings as of 2026 to be powered by electricity, instead of oil or gas, reducing New York's dependency on methane-producing, planet-killing fossil fuels

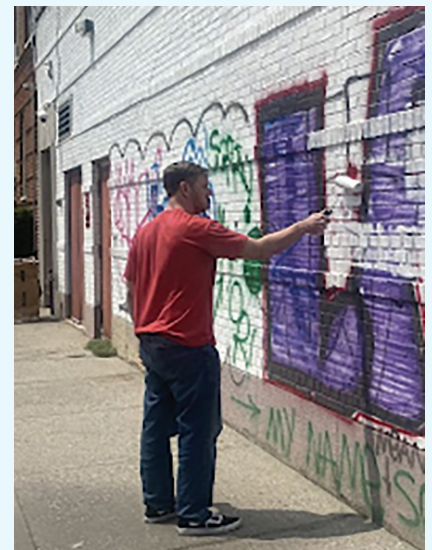


In the Community

In addition to our legislative efforts in Albany, Assemblyman Hevesi continues to partner with our neighbors on an array of local events and initiatives. Last year alone, these included:

- Organizing 15 community cleanups across parks and the streets of AD 28 in partnership with dozens of local groups, mobilizing hundreds of volunteers and helping dozens of students claim volunteer service hours
- Numerous graffiti clean-ups
- 14 local distributions of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) with city and local partners, and ongoing office appointments to pick up free supplies, which in 2022 accounted for distribution of:
 - 50,000+ surgical and KN95 facemasks
 - 1,000+ bottles of personal hand sanitizer
 - 16,000+ rapid tests
- Participating in dozens of holiday, advocacy, and locally oriented events organized by community organizations, local advocates, small businesses, and groups representing local businesses
- Coordinating numerous other initiatives, including food donations/deliveries, rain barrel distributions, backpack giveaways, and leaf bag distributions among others
- Worked with the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) and Long Island Railroad (LIRR) to restore more equitable service for local neighborhoods between Kew Gardens and Forest Hills
- Secured funding for local community organizations that serve the people of AD 28 including Queens Community House, Met Council, Commonpoint Queens, the Forest Hills Youth Athletic Association, and more.

My staff and I pride ourselves on our personally tailored approach to each case that comes before the office. If you need assistance or would like to inquire on available supplies or upcoming volunteer opportunities, please do not hesitate to contact us at (718) 263-5595 or by email at hevesia@nyassembly.gov.





Assemblyman Hevesi Passes Legislation Granting More Families Access To Full-Time Child Care

Assemblyman Hevesi successfully passed A.4986, which ends New York State's current practice of linking the hours a child receives child care to the exact hours parents are working or pursuing their education. This outdated practice has unnecessarily harmed children, parents and child care providers. Parents working in sectors with fluctuating work hours, such as retail, hospitality, healthcare, restaurants, etc deserve the same consistency in child care regardless of hours worked in a given week. Every child deserves continuous and consistent care, which is especially crucial for early childhood development. Child care providers will now be able to receive reliable payment for full time care and not have to make last minute adjustments just to get by. The advocacy of the Empire State Campaign for Child Care was crucial in advancing this legislation, which also passed the Senate under the leadership of Senator Jabari Brisport and currently awaits Governor Hochul's signature to become law.

Legislation Passed By Assemblyman Hevesi This Year

A.5042: Requires that newborns are tested for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, the most common form of muscular dystrophy. Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy is a fatal genetic pediatric disease that results in progressive muscle deterioration and weakness. The disease typically presents by age 5, by then it is often too late. Early detection is crucial and this legislation requiring newborn screening will save lives and mitigate the effects of this disease. This bill passed the Assembly unanimously as well as passed the Senate and is awaiting the Governor's signature.

A.6544: Automatically seals and expunges the records of juvenile Persons in Need of Supervision (PINS) cases. PINS are youth under 18 who are found by the Family Court to have committed status offenses that *are not* crimes, such as running away from home, skipping school, abusing drugs/alcohol or exhibiting other dangerous behavior. Sealing these records will give these children the second chance they deserve. This bill passed the Assembly unanimously as well as passed the Senate and is awaiting the Governor's signature.

A.7349: Amends an error in the existing law and expands KinGAP eligibility to include children surrendered from foster care making them and their Kin Families eligible for increased supports and services. This bill passed the Assembly as well as passed the Senate and is awaiting the Governor's signature.

A.2798: Requires New York to determine the number of children in foster care who have Intellectual / Developmental Disabilities (IDDs), provides oversight of guidelines, placement, and treatment of children with IDDs and identifies the extent children are prepared to exit foster care to independent living. Without knowing how many children in the foster care system have IDDs, we cannot provide them with the proper care and support to meet their needs. This study bill is a critically important first step. This bill passed the Assembly as well as passed the Senate and is awaiting the Governor's signature.

A.7366: Requires statewide training for mandated reporters to include how to identify an abused or maltreated child with an Intellectual or Developmental Disability (IDD). The vulnerability of this population can expose them to greater risk of potential abuse and neglect and it is important that mandated reporters recognize these signs. This bill passed the Assembly as well as passed the Senate and is awaiting the Governor's signature.

Upcoming Legislative Priorities

In addition to his successful work in the budget, Assemblyman Hevesi is the lead sponsor of numerous other bills in the legislature, including:

- **A.4815**, the Universal Child Care Act which would bring free child care to all New Yorkers
- **A.2479**, to end the use of the State Central Registry of Abuse and Mistreatment Hotline to harass innocent New Yorkers by requiring callers to leave their contact information, which will be kept strictly confidential
- **A.3446** to prioritize the safety and wellbeing of children in family court
- **A.5043**, which grants runaway, homeless and migrant youth under the age of 25 eligibility to receive housing vouchers under the Family Homelessness and Eviction Prevention Supplement ("FHEPS") program
- **A.2707**, which establishes the crime of coercive control in domestic abuse cases
- **A.4790**, which outlines the duties and responsibilities of cemetery corporations to ensure the dignity and care of the deceased
- **A.2807**, which increases the state reimbursement rate for preventative child protective services

Assemblyman Hevesi Helps Cut Red Tape On Steinway Pianos For Forest Hills High School

On June 6, 2023, Forest Hills High School (FHHS) held an unveiling concert for two brand new Steinway Pianos it had secured for the school music program. As the gold-standard of grand pianos, this will allow students at FHHS to hone their craft on equipment used by music-industry professionals at the very highest levels of performance.

While the school was working to secure these pianos, Assemblyman Hevesi helped coordinate with FHHS administrators Paul Wilbur, Neil Rosenblatt, Walter Birkhold, Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, NYC Council Member Lynn Schulman, Congresswoman Grace Meng, Senator Toby Ann Stavisky, and Assemblymember Daniel Rosenthal to work with central Department of Education (DOE) staff and expedite the processing of this purchase. This joint effort and collaboration ensured the acquisition of the instruments while the funds remained accessible.

As a result, current and future students will now be able to demonstrate their abilities, and perform on the best instruments that can be found – continuing the FHHS legacy as a musical institution in New York City, having already graduated the likes of Paul Simon, Art Garfunkel, the Ramones, and numerous other performers at the top of their fields.



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