

March 2024



News from

Assemblyman

Andrew Hevesi



Dear Neighbor,

As we look back on 2023 and ahead to 2024, I wanted to provide some updates as to what my office has been working on, both legislatively and locally.

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/enevs/.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read "Andy Hevesi", written on a dark blue background.

Andy Hevesi

28th Assembly District

Assemblyman Hevesi Leads Bipartisan Coalition Calling for Increased Funds to Protect our Religious Institutions and Schools

Assemblyman Hevesi formed a bipartisan coalition of over 60 legislators calling on Governor Hochul to include increased funds to the Nonpublic School Safety Equipment (NPSE) Grants in her Executive Budget. These grants are used for increased security measures at religious and private schools such as additional guards and protective infrastructure. The Deputy Majority Leader of the State Senate, Michael Gianaris, echoed Hevesi's call for increased funding with a bipartisan coalition of over 30 Senators.

Currently, \$45 million is allocated for these grants, which amounts to just a little over \$100 per student for the year, Assemblyman Hevesi and his colleagues are urging Governor Hochul to double this amount to \$90 million for fiscal year 2024-25. It is imperative that New York State use every available resource to ensure the safety of our Jewish, Muslim and other communities.

Serving the Communities of Forest Hills / Rego Park / Kew Gardens /
Richmond Hill / Ridgewood / Middle Village / Glendale

Four Bills Sponsored by Assemblyman Hevesi Signed into Law



- **A5042:** 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 and Senate unanimously and was signed by Governor Hochul on 10/25/23.
- **A7349:** 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. KinGAP currently prevents children from going into foster care and congregate care settings by placing them with relatives, close friends or other fictive kin. This bill was signed into law on 10/25/23 and takes effect immediately.
- **A7366:** Requires mandated reporters to be trained in recognizing the signs of abuse or neglect when a child has an intellectual or developmental disability. This new training will help prevent undue tragedies within this vulnerable population and ensure appropriate responses from mandated reporters in cases of suspected child abuse or neglect. This legislation passed with unanimous support in both the Assembly and Senate and was signed into law on 11/17/23, it will take effect one year from signing to allow for proper updates to the current training.
- **A6544:** Automatically seals and expunges juvenile cases for “Persons in Need of Supervision” or “PINS.” 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 or exhibiting other dangerous behaviors. These kids, who have committed no crime, have previously had these records follow them throughout their lives, making it harder to secure housing, employment and become successful adults. This new law will remove that obstacle and stigma and help approximately a thousand children per year across New York State. This bill was signed into law on 12/08/23 and will take effect 90 days from its signing.

Assemblyman Hevesi Joins Local Legislators and Providers to Save CDPAP

Due to a policy change from the 2019 Medicaid redesign which limits participation in the Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Program (CDPAP) to agencies, or fiscal intermediaries, that contract with the Department of Health, some providers are being threatened with closure. Under this policy, up to 270 “small agencies” could close in the coming months. Not only do these agencies provide specialized care, they are also small businesses that employ local

residents. These closures are especially harmful for our diverse and aging communities across Queens because the smaller agencies often have special cultural competencies, language proficiencies, and other services tailored for certain communities. These closures are bad for patients and small businesses. Assemblyman Hevesi was joined by Assemblymembers David Weprin and Nader Sayegh as well as Senators Leroy Comrie and Joseph Addabbo at a press conference calling for these policies to be reversed and to save our small CDPAP providers.



Assemblyman Hevesi Introduces Legislation Streamlining Disability Parking Permit Renewals

Assemblyman Hevesi introduced bill A.2487 alongside Senator Stavisky which would allow permanently disabled individuals to apply for a renewal of a parking permit without requiring them to submit updated medical records. Anyone with a permanent disability, as determined by their treating physician, should not have to re-prove they are disabled when renewing their disability parking permit. In most cases, neither insurance nor workers compensation will cover the cost of MRIs, X-rays, or additional services currently required to prove one's condition. Once a determination of permanency has been made, it is unnecessarily arduous, costly and physically taxing to force permanently disabled New Yorkers to produce these documents year after year

when there is no expectation for improvement of their condition. It is an undue and unjust burden. New Yorkers who previously have been approved for disability parking permits, some for many years, are receiving denials for their permit renewals due to lack of proof and supporting documentation, even though their treating physicians have determined that they have a permanent disability. This bill would ensure that no person with a permanent disability, as determined by their treating physician, would be forced to provide updated medical records to their locality of residence or the State of New York when renewing a disability parking permit.

In the Community

Last year saw Assemblyman Hevesi organize and participate in dozens of community cleanup efforts, rain barrel giveaways, resource fairs, mobile office hours, backpack giveaways, food pantry distributions, community meetings and much, much more!



Stay tuned for continued events and volunteer opportunities throughout 2024 by following Assemblyman Hevesi @AM_AndrewHevesi or by signing up for email blasts by visiting [nyassembly.gov/mem/Andrew-Hevesi/enews/!](https://nyassembly.gov/mem/Andrew-Hevesi/enews/) Participating students are eligible for community service hours!

Improving Transit Access and Traffic Safety

With ever changing transit infrastructure and driving patterns, Assemblyman Hevesi remains in frequent and ongoing communication with government agencies, including the MTA, LIRR, and New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) to increase access to reliable transit and improve safety for pedestrians, drivers, cyclists, and all who use our streets.

In 2023 these efforts included:

- Working with LIRR to restore service between Kew Gardens and Forest Hills Stations
- Fighting to maintain Q23 bus service between Forest Hills and Rego Park
- Advocating for traffic safety improvements, with larger scale requests in Forest Hills, Richmond Hill, Kew Gardens, Middle Village, and Rego Park

As the communication on transit remains ongoing, residents are encouraged to contact Assemblyman Hevesi with any requests, questions, or concerns they may have to increase accessibility and keep our neighborhoods safe.

New York State Assembly, Albany, NY 12248

PRSR STD.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Albany, New York
Permit No. 75



News From
Assemblyman
**Andrew
HEVESI**

March 2024

A large graphic featuring a portrait of Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi on the left, set against a background of the New York State Capitol building. The text "Assemblyman Andrew HEVESI" is prominently displayed in the center. To the right is the official seal of the New York State Assembly. Below the name, contact information for both District and Albany offices is provided.

**Assemblyman
Andrew
HEVESI**



District Office:
70-50 Austin Street, Suite 118
Forest Hills, NY 11375
718-263-5595
hevesia@nyassembly.gov

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