



Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi

Forest Hills / Rego Park / Kew Gardens /
Richmond Hill / Ridgewood / Middle Village / Glendale

Assemblyman Hevesi Stops Governor from Cutting Funds for PINS Youth



During the 2019 budget process, Assemblyman Hevesi led his colleagues in the legislature to reject a proposal from the Governor which would have cut \$13 million in funds for services to Persons in Need of Supervision (PINS) youth. PINS youth are children under 18 years old that have not committed any crimes, but are exhibiting risky behaviors such as skipping school, running away from home, or abusing drugs and alcohol. Their parents have filed a petition through family court to receive intervention and access to various programs. Once the petition is filed, the City's Administration of Children's Services (ACS) then enrolls the child in a diversion program designed to bolster a stronger relationship between parent and child, or, when absolutely necessary, places the youth in foster care. Approximately 5,000 families are served by these programs every year. These diversion programs not only yield better outcomes for youth, they also save taxpayers millions of dollars in avoided costs for incarceration, public assistance, emergency room visits, and other services. Numerous child welfare advocates, including the Citizens Committee for Children, worked with Assemblyman Hevesi to educate legislators about the dangers of the Governor's proposal for these children, their families and our communities. Thanks to both houses of the legislature, the Governor's proposed cuts were successfully rejected, ensuring that these critical services are able to continue.



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Legislation Written By Assemblyman Hevesi That Passed Both Houses of the Legislature This Year

- **A.4258 / S.6225**

Will allow youth aging out of foster care to be eligible for rent subsidies while living with a roommate

- **A.4256 / S.4809**

Excludes the unearned income of a child (child support, disability benefits, death benefits) when calculating income to determine a family's public assistance eligibility

- **A.2766 / S.4990**

Mandates that all childcare / day care providers be trained in recognizing and addressing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

- **A.4236 / S.4641**

Ensures that the opinions and determinations of a public assistance applicant's treating health care practitioner are given sufficient weight when making disability determinations

- **A.4267 / S.4281**

Makes it easier for survivors of domestic violence to terminate their lease and leave unsafe residences

- **A.4268 / S.2659**

Mandates that direct-care domestic violence workers in shelters, safe dwellings, and non-residential domestic violence programs are trained in ACEs

- **A.7603 / S.6314**

Extends, for two years, the income and resources exemptions provisions of Social Services Law § 131-n to ensure that families will not have to divest themselves of certain resources to qualify for public assistance

- **A.7817 / S.5402**

Will exempt or disregard funds in a New York Achieving a Better Life Experience (NY ABLE) savings account from assets limit tests to qualify or recertify for public assistance. NY ABLE accounts help individuals save and pay for expenses and services that are not necessarily covered by Medicaid or disability benefits and assist individuals and families to save funds to support the health, independence and quality of life of individuals with disabilities.

Assemblyman Hevesi Joins Forest Hills Green Team for Underpass Clean-up



On Sunday, May 19, 2019, Assemblyman Hevesi and his staff participated in the Forest Hills Green Team's (FHGT) volunteer clean-up and beautification of the LIRR underpass at Yellowstone Blvd. The FHGT, co-chaired by two constituents of the 28th Assembly District, Mark Laster and Dan Miner, was formed to provide community members with the opportunity to become stakeholders in the ecological sustainability of our neighborhoods. During this event, volunteers mulched, weeded, landscaped, and added non-invasive plant-life to revamp the areas around the underpass. The FHGT is also involved in assisting MELs High School with their school garden and Forest Hills High School in developing both a school garden and a community garden. The FHGT meets the second Monday of every month in the evening at the Forest Hills library. For more information, please visit: www.facebook.com/groups/foresthillsgreenteam/

Assemblyman Hevesi Passes Lease Termination Bill for Survivors of Domestic Violence

Assemblyman Hevesi wrote and passed legislation that will make it easier for survivors of domestic violence to terminate their lease and leave unsafe residences. Assembly bill A.4267 is designed to ensure both the immediate physical safety and long-term financial security of domestic violence survivors. Specifically, this bill changes the existing termination of lease process by no longer requiring a court order of protection and replaces that requirement with a written notice requirement. The bill eliminates the existing requirement that a tenant seeking a lease termination has to notify a co-tenant who is their abuser. It expands the categories of documentation required to corroborate the tenant's status as a domestic violence survivor to include police reports, medical reports and certifications from domestic violence service providers, as well as orders of protection. It shortens the time period between the initiation of the process and the lease termination date. This legislation also eliminates the requirement that

the tenant seeking to terminate a lease be current on rental payments because according to experts, 99% of domestic violence survivors are victims of financial abuse. This bill also creates a new subsection that details how the rent and any security deposit will be handled, establishes an affirmative defense to a subsequent legal action for rental arrears brought by the landlord based on compliance, explicitly preserves the landlord's right to seek rental arrears owed prior to the termination date, creates a new subsection that outlines and clarifies the treatment of other tenants if there's cohabitation, creates a new subsection with confidentiality provisions that says that the landlord cannot under any circumstances talk about the use of this statute or that the tenant was a domestic violence survivor, and finally establishes minimal damages and payments for violation of the sections outlined in the bill. Senator Alessandra Biaggi successfully passed this bill's counterpart in the New York State Senate.

Assemblyman Hevesi Protects Low-Income Legally Exempt Childcare Providers

During the 2019 session, Assemblyman Hevesi partnered with the Puerto Rican/Hispanic Task Force of the legislature, and subsequently the rest of the Senate and Assembly, to successfully reject the Governor's proposal to expand background checks for legally exempt childcare providers to extended family. Legally exempt providers typically include family members such as a grandparent, aunt, uncle or siblings who are enrolled to be caregivers and provide subsidized child care services. The providers already undergo background checks. However, the Governor's proposal in the 2019 budget, to have other non-care giver members of the household undergo background checks would have discouraged immigrant families from applying for childcare due to fear of being placed on the path to deportation by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). In addition, Assemblyman Hevesi successfully fought to ensure that legally exempt providers are granted the same due process rights as regulated providers, by having the Assembly and Senate reject the Governor's proposal to strip them of their rights. By successfully stopping these proposals, low-income families will continue to have access to crucial child care subsidies with their due process rights intact.

Assemblyman Hevesi Partners with Roadmap to Health

On June 21st Assemblyman Hevesi sponsored Roadmap to Health's visit to the SelfHelp Austin Street Senior Center. Roadmap to Health is a mobile health screening unit that offers screenings such as cholesterol, blood pressure, and BMI. They also provide people with information on general health, wellness, and nutrition. The program and screenings are completely free to anyone who participates. Roadmap to Health aims to remove barriers to health care that many communities face, as well as educate individuals about how they can protect, maintain and improve their health. We had a great turnout at SelfHelp and look forward to bringing this important initiative to other community partners.



Hevesi Legislation to Train Direct Care Domestic Violence Workers in Adverse Childhood Experiences Passes Both Houses of the Legislature

Assemblyman Hevesi wrote Assembly bill A.4268 which passed the Assembly unanimously and subsequently passed the New York State Senate thanks to the work of Senator Diane Savino. This legislation mandates that direct-care domestic violence workers in shelters, safe dwellings, and non-residential domestic violence programs are trained in Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), allowing these workers to better understand the trauma both their adult clients and their children have faced. ACEs result in the increased production of stress

hormones that harm the development of the prefrontal cortex in the child's brain and can be toxic for other organs as well. The results for children who have experienced trauma can include learning difficulties, behavioral problems, difficulty regulating emotions and increased and potentially debilitating physical and mental health issues. New York State currently offers no consistent ACE's training. This bill will codify the concept of Adverse Childhood Experiences in New York Law and will create the first statutorily required training.

New York State Assembly, Albany, NY 12248

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Assemblyman
**Andrew
HEVESI**
Reports to the People

Summer 2019

Assemblyman Hevesi Sponsors Donation Drives



This spring, Assemblyman Hevesi partnered with Catering for the Homeless along with The Queen of Angels Church to coordinate a toiletries drive for those living in shelters. Members of the community donated over 100 items to our drop-off site alone. Assemblyman Hevesi also partnered with the Floating Hospital and Super Community LIC to collect items for their annual Mother's Day goods drive. The Floating Hospital provides families living in shelters with medical and dental care and has been serving New Yorkers for over 150 years. Together we collected beauty items and toiletries to present mothers living in city shelters with gift bags for the holiday. For more information about upcoming donation opportunities, please connect with Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi on Facebook or reach out to the district office directly.