



Dear Neighbor,

I hope everyone had an enjoyable and restful summer. As the new school year starts, I wanted to reach out with some updates on public policy my office is working on as well as community events.

I look forward to seeing you soon either in my office or around our neighborhoods!

Sincerely,

Andy

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Andrew Hevesi
28th Assembly District

October Hearing on Domestic Violence Funding

This October – Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) – Assemblyman Hevesi, in his role as Chairman of the Committee on Children and Families, will be conducting a hearing in New York City with statewide agencies and partners to identify issues with current funding streams that prevent domestic violence survivors from getting support. This hearing comes in response to a veto of Assemblyman Hevesi's prior bill A.2543 from Governor Hochul which had been designed to address the increase in single adults seeking emergency shelter upon fleeing domestic violence situations. The domestic violence shelter system was originally set up to administer services and support to families fleeing domestic violence. As a result, the majority of temporary housing units for this population were built to accommodate family compositions, including a parent and one or more children, rather than individual adults.

Currently, the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) reimburses temporary housing providers for survivors of domestic violence on a per person per night basis, which places providers in a financial predicament when a single adult is seeking shelter and the only space available is designed for a family. Over the years, the number of single adult survivors of trafficking and domestic and gender-based violence seeking temporary housing has increased, but the number of units designed to accommodate them has remained mostly flat, and inadequate.



Assemblyman Hevesi at the 2025 NYS Human Services Budget Hearing

According to data drawn from the New York City's 24-hour Domestic Violence Hotline, operated by Safe Horizon, in 2021 48% of the calls came from single adults in need of shelter. Of those, only 31% were connected with shelter, compared to 76% of clients with one child and 78% of clients with two children. The situation for single adult survivors of gender-based violence worsened in 2022: while 49% of all requests for shelter came from single clients, they accounted for less than a quarter (or 24%) of all shelter placements.

If you, or anyone you know, is experiencing domestic violence, help is available. Call the New York State Domestic and Sexual Violence Hotline at **1-800-942-6906**, text **844-997-2121**, or visit opdv.ny.gov.

Immigrant Family Preparation Resources

In light of recent federal actions, Assemblyman Hevesi — in his capacity as Chair of the Assembly Committee on Children and Families — has worked with immigration and child advocates to issue guidance to all New York State representatives so they can help inform constituents on how to remain safe.

MEMORANDUM

To: Elected Officials and Government Partners Across New York
From: Andrew Hevesi, Chair of the NYS Assembly Committee on Children and Families
Re: Protecting and Supporting Immigrant Families
Date: September 3, 2025

Dear Colleagues:

As you know, in recent months, the federal government has commenced aggressive immigration enforcement sweeps in New York and across our country. It has also taken budgetary and administrative actions to take away many essential services from immigrants. These actions have altered the daily lives of many New York immigrant families and communities, with many afraid to access benefits or services to which they are entitled, and some so fearful they try not to leave their homes.

The threat these actions pose to the health and wellbeing of New York children cannot be overstated. Approximately [37% of New York children](#)—more than 1,374,000 children—live in immigrant families. And an estimated [324,400 children](#) across New York State live with an undocumented parent or family member. All are at risk of being directly or indirectly impacted by cuts to benefits, family separation due to immigration detention or deportation, loss of income due to a reduction in family income due to changes in immigration laws and enforcement action, and more.

However, there are steps families can take to mitigate the impacts. Immigrant rights and child and family advocacy groups are urging families and communities to act without delay to develop **Family Safety Plans**. These plans can help protect children from the worst disruptions and harms that can accompany parental detention or deportation. I hope you will share the resources linked below and attached with your constituents.

- Family Preparedness Plan (available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#))
- [NYIC Community Resources Webpage](#)
- [MAKE A PLAN: MIGRANT PARENTS' GUIDE TO PREVENTING FAMILY SEPARATION](#) (Women's Refugee Commission)
- Additional resources are available [here](#) from the Women's Refugee Commission in English and Spanish.
- The New York State Office of New Americans can connect immigrant New Yorkers with questions or concerns with local community groups.

I look forward to working together in the coming weeks and months to support and keep safely together ALL New York children and families.

Sincerely,
Andrew D. Hevesi
Chair of the NYS Assembly Committee on Children and Families

With nearly 1.4 million children in New York living in immigrant households, and more than 300,000 living with an undocumented parent, the risks of family separation, loss of income, and disruption of essential services are very real.

Available resources include:

- Family Preparedness Plan (available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#))
- [NYIC Community Resources Webpage](#)
- [MAKE A PLAN: MIGRANT PARENTS' GUIDE TO PREVENTING FAMILY SEPARATION](#) (Women's Refugee Commission)
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Legislative Update: 5 Hevesi Bills Pass Both Houses and Await Governor Signature

This year, Assemblyman Hevesi and his partners in the Senate were able to pass several pieces of legislation through both houses, 5 of which now await the Governor's signature:

1. A.8028 Hevesi SAME AS S7685 Persaud - Passed Both Houses

A 2022 law established the childcare center property tax abatement, enabling support for 47 beneficiaries, supporting the creation of 3,500 childcare seats and totaling approximately \$1,000,000 in tax relief for childcare providers. This bill enhances abatements for owners in childcare deserts, to better incentivize property owners to partner with providers in expanding childcare facilities in New York City.

2. A.5434 Hevesi SAME AS S03781 Brisport - Passed Both Houses (Unanimously in the Assembly)

For years, advocates and child welfare professionals have condemned the common practice of forcing foster children in New York to carry their belongings in plastic trash bags — a degrading and deeply traumatic experience. To these children, their possessions represent far more than physical items; they are ties to their identity, history, and sense of self-worth. Treating these items as disposable sends a damaging message that this bill aims to put to rest. This legislation will require the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) provide luggage to youth in foster care.



Assemblyman Hevesi debates on the Assembly floor, May 27, 2025

3. A.66 Hevesi SAME AS S550-A Brisport - Passed Both Houses

This bill will replace anonymous reporting to New York's Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment (SCR) with confidential reporting. Each year, about 150,000 families are reported to the SCR. Approximately 7% of these total calls to the system are reported anonymously, yet the overwhelming majority of these anonymous reports are ultimately deemed unfounded. 10,000 New York families every year are subjected to months of intrusive investigation only to later be cleared of any wrongdoing based on intentional false and malicious reports. These reports are frequently used to target domestic violence survivors and disproportionately affect Black and Brown families. Requiring all callers to provide their names would deter abuse of the system while still protecting the confidentiality of legitimate reporters. Supported by a broad coalition of legal, civil rights, and child welfare organizations, this bill is a vital step toward a more just and effective child protection system.

4. A. 612 Hevesi SAME AS S278 Skoufis - Passed Both Houses

The bill amends § 390 of New York's Social Services Law to change how the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) can set staff/child ratios for family day care homes, group family day care homes, school-age programs, and day care centers throughout New York State.

Regulations regarding staff/child ratios have not been updated in 25 years, since 2000. This bill will modernize these ratios to improve care quality in licensed child care homes and facilities.

Currently, a disparity exists between New York City and the rest of the state, with NYC following different, often more flexible, regulations. Aligning state ratios with NYC's would support sustainability, expand access, and reduce waitlists for infant and toddler care throughout our state.

5. A.744 Hevesi SAME AS S5242 - Passed Both Houses

The bill adds a definition of “alternative living arrangement” under New York’s Social Services Law —essentially referring to out-of-home care agreements made outside of formal foster care during CPS investigations or related circumstances. The aim is to shed light on “hidden foster care” — cases where children are placed outside their homes without full oversight of the formal child welfare / court system. Left unchecked, these arrangements disempower parents, diminish a family’s constitutional rights, and cause severe disruption and trauma for the child.

Ace in the Community

It's been a great first year with Ace Programs for the Homeless!

Through funds secured in the New York State budget, we've been able to foster an employment opportunity for those exiting homelessness, while keeping our neighborhoods proactively maintained.



Thank you to the entire ACE team for the continued partnership!

Event Recap: Community Cleanup Day – Vietnam Veterans Memorial Garden

Thank you to everyone who joined our community cleanup effort at the Glendale Vietnam Veterans Memorial Garden! We had a wonderful time working alongside our friends and neighbors – especially Dorie Figliola, the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 32, and Sen. Joseph Addabbo.



Missed our last community cleanup? No worries, join us for our upcoming Metro Cleanup!

Join us Sunday October 12th from 10am-12pm in making our community a better place, one piece of garbage at a time! We are grateful to be collaborating with Council Member Schulman, Senator Addabbo, Queens Community Board 6 (CB6), Forest Hills Green Team (FHGT), Home Depot, Forest Hills Stadium, and Metro Village Forest Hills (MVFH). The cleanup will start outside of Aigner Chocolates at 103-02 Metropolitan Ave.

METRO CLEANUP

October 12, 10 - 12:00 PM
Meet outside Aigner Chocolates
103-02 Metropolitan Ave.

SPONSORED BY:
Forest Hills Stadium

ALL SUPPLIES WILL BE PROVIDED.

If you cannot make it on October 12th but would like to get involved in a similar event, feel free to reach out to our office to suggest a location that would benefit from a future community cleanup!

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Forest Hills, NY 11375	518-455-4926
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