



February 5, 2021

Greetings --

This week, the Assembly passed the repeal of the 'Walking While Trans' ban, ([A.3355](#)). This loitering law allowed police officers to apprehend anyone they suspected of engaging in sex work without proof.

This vague law caused many trans women and women of color to be unlawfully stopped and held for simply walking down the street. Because of the actions of the legislature this week, this form of codified discrimination and overzealous policing will stop.

See my remarks about the bill from the floor of the Assembly [here](#):



Legislation to help Workers and Small Businesses

Last week the Assembly passed four bills to help workers and small businesses make it through the COVID-19 pandemic. The first piece of legislation, ([A.2001](#)), ensures that small businesses

will not receive higher unemployment insurance rates because they were forced to reduce staff due to COVID-19. The second bill, ([A.2355](#)), will allow part-time workers to qualify for unemployment insurance. Third, the COVID-19 Emergency Protect Our Small Business Act of 2021, ([A.3207](#)), will prevent evictions for small businesses until May 1st of this year, and provide several other protections for small businesses during this difficult time. The final bill we passed will provide an additional \$11 billion for unemployment insurance ([A.3011](#)), ensuring that the increased need for UI during the pandemic is met.

There is so much more we need to do to help small businesses. In that vein, I have introduced two bills to help small businesses survive during the pandemic, including two bills ([A.498](#) and [A.1937](#)) that require Insurance companies to pay legitimate business interruption claims to small businesses with 250 employees or less.

I also introduced legislation, [A.850](#), to prohibit rent minimums in mortgages. Vacant storefronts are becoming more and more the norm as COVID-19 continues to ravage New York's economy. This bill would allow landlords to rent space for less than the minimum stipulated in their mortgage contract and render any terms in the mortgage which would cause a mortgagor to be penalized for not setting a high enough rent, to be void and unenforceable as against public policy. This legislation, if enacted, would incentivize landlords to fill storefronts without fear of default and to renegotiate leases with current tenants.

Please reach out to my office at carrollr@nyassembly.gov or by calling (718) 788-7221 if you need assistance.

Stay safe,

Bobby

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