



July 1, 2022

Greetings --

This week Governor Hochul called an extraordinary session of the state legislature in response to the Supreme Court's decisions overturning New York State's one-hundred-year-old gun safety law which required applicants for concealed carry gun permits to show "proper cause" and the overturning of Roe v. Wade.

Gun Safety

With regard to gun safety, the legislature passed a bill, ([A41001/S51001](#)), which strengthens New York's gun laws in several key ways. The legislation includes making it a crime to have guns in what are defined as sensitive locations including schools and universities, public transportation, places of worship, sporting and entertainment venues, museums, government buildings, libraries, public playgrounds, parks, and health care facilities. The bill also requires applicants for concealed carry permits to pass a firearms training course, gives the state oversight over background checks for firearms and authority to run regular checks on license holders for criminal convictions and create a state-wide license and ammunition database. The bill also strengthens and clarifies the law with regards to the sale of body armor and the safe storage of firearms.

Equality Amendment

The legislature also took a major step to protect the human rights of all New York State residents by passing the Equality Amendment, ([A41002/S51002](#)), which proposes amending the State's constitution to ban discrimination based on gender, ethnicity, pregnancy status, disability status and sexual orientation and protect a person's right to access reproductive health care. This constitutional amendment now needs to be passed in the next legislative session beginning in January and then put before the voters for approval. I am proud to be a co-sponsor of this constitutional amendment.

Build Public Renewables Act

Unfortunately, the current Supreme Court's unrestrained judicial activism has not been limited to gun safety and abortion rights. This Thursday the Supreme Court ruled to limit the [Environmental Protection Agency's authority under the Clean Air Act to regulate carbon](#)

[emissions from power plants](#). This ruling will very significantly impede the country's transition to renewable energy and makes action by the states to fight climate change all the more essential; in light of this I am all the more committed to the passage of my bill, the Build Public Renewables Act ([A1466/S6453](#)). This legislation would allow the New York Power Authority to take the lead in building, operating, and owning renewable energy projects in New York State and require all state-owned buildings to be powered by renewables by 2030 and municipally owned buildings by 2035. [The Build Public Renewables Act is the most important piece of climate legislation in the country](#) and the Governor should call an additional extraordinary session to pass it before the end of the year.

While the accomplishments of this extraordinary session are significant, this is in no way the end to our fight for public policy that protects us from gun violence, protects women's right to choose, and protects our environment.

-Bobby

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