



**May 12, 2023**

Greetings –

Now that the budget has passed, the focus in Albany is squarely on legislation. I am prioritizing a number of bills, including my dyslexia and literacy related bills, as well as my bills to reduce utility rates, support solar projects in New York City, support biodiversity in the State through wildlife crossings, and advance election reforms that will improve transparency and enhance voting rights.

**Movement on Dyslexia related bills:**

**This past week has seen progress on my work related to dyslexia. My bill to establish a dyslexia task force (A.133) passed out of the Ways and Means Committee and will now move to the floor to be voted on by the full body.** The legislation will require the New York State Education Department Commissioner to establish a task force to examine appropriate and effective evidence-based screening methods, reading interventions and other educational supports for dyslexia and related disorders for students in kindergarten through grade five. As those of you who have been following this legislation know, the bill was vetoed by the Governor last November, but I am confident that she will come to her senses and take this important step in addressing the needs of children with dyslexia and their families.

At the same time, I am taking nothing for granted and also this week introduced the **New York Individuals With Dyslexia Education Act (A.7101)**. This bill would mandate statewide standards for the screening of students in grades kindergarten through five for dyslexia, for the interventions required for students identified as being at risk for dyslexia or having dyslexia, for parental notification regarding the outcomes of screenings and interventions, and for the training of educators and other school personnel regarding dyslexia screening and interventions.

*Dyslexia Awareness Day this Wednesday May 17<sup>th</sup>*

If you are coming to Albany this coming Wednesday May 17<sup>th</sup> here is the rundown of my bills related to dyslexia and literacy that your advocacy can help make a reality.

- **A..7101** - Establishes the NY IDEA Act "New York individuals with dyslexia education act." This bill establishes statewide standards for the screening of students in grades kindergarten through five for dyslexia, for the interventions required for students identified as being at risk for dyslexia or having dyslexia, for parental notification regarding the outcomes of screenings and

interventions, and for the training of educators and other school personnel regarding dyslexia screening and interventions.

- [A.2898/S5481](#) - The Dyslexia Diagnosis Access Act, would mandate that private health insurance policies pay for neuropsychological exams for the purpose of diagnosing dyslexia. Students are unlikely to receive the intervention required to overcome dyslexia without a positive diagnosis and comprehensive neuropsychological exams are recognized as the most effective way to positively diagnose dyslexia. However, such exams currently may cost in excess of six thousand dollars and are typically not paid for by health insurance, making them unaffordable to many families.
- [A.2897/S.5480](#) - The Right to Read Act would require the State Education Department to provide guidance to school districts to establish literacy programming based on the science of reading as the standard throughout the state and require teachers in the elementary grades to complete fifty hours of training in this programming. It would prohibit SED from promoting curriculum based on the debunked “three cueing” method, which while still widely used has not been proven to be effective.
- [A.133/S.2599](#) – The Dyslexia Task Force Act, would establish a statewide dyslexia task force, chaired by the State Commissioner of Education, with a mandate to examine and report on appropriate and effective evidence-based screening, intervention, and support for students with and at risk of dyslexia and dysgraphia. Identical legislation that the Assemblymember sponsored last legislative session was passed by both the Assembly and State Senate but was unfortunately vetoed by the Governor this past November.

### **Important Development Regarding Congestion Pricing**

Last week the Federal Highway Administration ruled the MTA’s environmental assessment for its congestion pricing was sufficient, bringing the program one step closer to becoming a reality. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic traffic in Manhattan was already unsustainable eating up time and harming our economy, health, and the environment. In response the New York State legislature voted to approve congestion pricing in 2019 – requiring the MTA to develop a plan to charge vehicles entering the Manhattan Central Business District with funding going to support the MTA’s capital program. It is time for the MTA to move forward implementing congestion pricing in a fair and equitable manner where both benefits and burdens are broadly shared. I joined the Congestion Pricing Now Coalition, MTA leadership, and colleagues in government to rally in support of implementing the program equitably and as soon as possible.



### **75 Bags of Donations Delivered!**

Thank you to everyone who answered my emergency call to help Asylum Seeking families with such generosity! We took over 75 bags and boxes to PS 217 this morning where the clothing and supplies will be distributed to recently arrived families. Donations poured in from around the district in support of the PS 217 school community in Flatbush. We are pausing donations for the time being, until the school has a better sense of more specific needs. We will be sure to let you know as soon as donations are requested again. And a special thanks to [Park Slope Parents](#) and founder Susan Fox for getting the word out!



### **Spring Clean and Green Wrap-Up**

Thank you again to all who contributed to the success of my “Clean & Green” event on April 30 with a goal to reduce, reuse, recycle. With the heavy rain, the Mets game may have been rained out, but we hit it out of the ballpark thanks to all the attendees, organizations, and agencies!

*Here are the Stats:*

- DSNY shredded 2500 lbs. of documents
- Lower East Side Ecology collected 5000 lbs. of electronic waste from 226 households

- DEP gave away hundreds of eco-friendly totes, bottles, etc. plus held a sign-up for [flood barriers](#) and [rain barrels](#)
- GrowNYC's Stop and Swap accepted 1300 lbs. of donated children's items of which 1000 lbs. went home with attendees and the other 300 lbs. were dropped off at local family shelters,
- Wearable Collections collected 2500 lbs. of textiles

A huge thank you to all who braved the rain and next year we will request a sunny day!

### **Free Flood Barriers and Rain Barrel Sign Up**

In response to reports of flooding in my district, my office received 6 and 12 foot [flood barriers from DEP](#). Stop by the office and pick up one or two for your basement doors or other trouble spots prone to flooding.

As in years past, I am working with DEP to distribute free rain barrels. This year, the supply is delayed and we won't be able to distribute them until June or July. We will let you know as soon as they are available, but in the meantime, get your name on the list so you will have one [reserved when they do arrive](#).

### **Open Studios Are Back!**

On June 3 and 4: The Park Slope Windsor Terrace Artists are excited to invite you to visit our FIRST Open Studios since the pandemic to see sculpture, ceramics, paintings, collage and photography by twenty-six artists living and working in Windsor Terrace and Park Slope. In addition to the 13 artists who are opening their studios for the first time since 2020, Ossam Gallery at 300 7th Street will host thirteen artists in their main floor gallery space. To find the Open Studios [map and more about the artists click here](#).

If you have any concerns about these or any other legislative or community matter, please email me at [carrollr@nyassembly.gov](mailto:carrollr@nyassembly.gov) or call (718) 788-7221.

-Bobby

**Assemblymember Robert Carroll**

**416 7th Avenue**

**Brooklyn, NY 11215**

**(718) 788-7221**

**LOB 557**

**Albany NY 12248**

**(518) 455 5377**

**[Carrollr@nyassembly.gov](mailto:Carrollr@nyassembly.gov)**