



Assembly Member

# REBECCA A. SEAWRIGHT

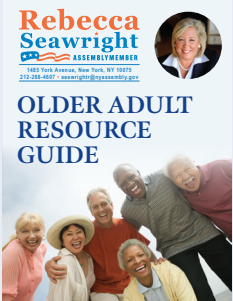
Chair of the Aging Committee

Reports To The People

Fall 2025

**DISTRICT OFFICE:** 1485 York Avenue (Between 78 & 79 Streets) • New York, NY 10075 • 212-288-4607  
**ALBANY OFFICE:** Room 824, Legislative Office Building • Albany, NY 12248 • 518-455-5676  
**EMAIL:** seawright@nyassembly.gov • **WEBSITE:** <http://nyassembly.gov/mem/Rebecca-A-Seawright>

## Consider Our Office Your Resource!



Stop by for your copy of our new **Older Adult Resource Guide!**

- No-Cost Notary Public
- Housing Legal Clinic
- Help with State agencies, benefits, and entitlements
- Apply for City and State programs like the City’s rent freeze program (SCRIE/DRIE)

Save the date for our **Annual Holiday Open House and Toy Drive** on **Thursday, December 11** from 4-5pm at the **District Office of Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright**, 1485 York Avenue (78/79 Streets).

### Seawright Bills Signed Into Law to Strengthen Consumer Protections and Seniors’ Rights

Governor Kathy Hochul has signed into law **Assembly Bill 8409**, sponsored by Seawright, continuing the cap on annual fees that licensed lenders can charge on open-end loans. At a time when New Yorkers are facing mounting student loan and credit card debt, our state is leading the way in consumer protection—where the federal government has fallen short.

- **Assembly Bill 8113**, sponsored by Seawright, has been signed into law, extending the authorization for the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, which advocates for older adults and people with disabilities in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and other licensed adult care homes.

As lead sponsor, Seawright passed key legislation through both houses for Aging New Yorkers:

- **Assembly Bill 7907** – Expands access to the Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly Program (EISEP), allowing older adults to age at home or in their community without burdensome requirements. The bill removes the physician prescription mandate for non-medical in-home, respite, and ancillary services, and eliminates counterproductive cost-sharing analysis requirements—freeing Area Agencies on Aging to focus on delivering services more efficiently.
- **Assembly Bill 8090** – Requires the Department of Health to study utilization of the Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) Program, which serves more than 325,000 income-eligible seniors. This analysis will help project costs and guide program improvements.

### Looking Ahead

Assembly Member Seawright, the lead sponsor of **Assembly Bill 8447**, is a strong advocate for this legislation, which passed the Assembly this session. The bill aims to educate seniors and caregivers on preventing financial exploitation. She remains committed to seeing this crucial legislation enacted in the next session, safeguarding vulnerable New Yorkers from fraud and abuse.

Continued on page 3...



Assembly Member Seawright and Team Seawright's John and Harley hosted AARP's The Big Shred NY at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House to help New Yorkers protect themselves from identity theft as nationwide fraud losses reach \$12.5 billion.

### Seawright Hosts Annual Senior Safety Seminar to Help New Yorkers Fight Scams



Detective Anthony Nuccio speaks to the crowd at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House regarding common scams.



Volunteer John McClement, intern Aidan Eisen, and District Office Liaison Harley Neiditz provide mobile constituent services at Roosevelt Island Day, including information on early voting and ranked-choice voting.

## Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright Hosts Annual Town Hall Featuring Holocaust Survivor and National Rabbinical Leaders



Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright hosted a powerful town hall at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House to address the rise in antisemitism. Joined by Holocaust survivor Sami Steigmann, Rabbi Michael Miller, Michael Cohen of the Auschwitz Jewish Center Foundation, and leaders from the Anti-Defamation League, Simon Wiesenthal Center, StandWithUs, AJC, as well as NYPD Hate Crimes Task Force Commander Inspector Gary Marcus, the panel discussed the need for clear antisemitism definitions, stronger hate crime enforcement, and regulation of hate speech online. The event emphasized unity, education, and community action to ensure hate has no home in New York City.

## Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright Appeared on NY1’s In Focus with Cheryl Wills to Discuss the Historic \$45 Million State Investment for Aging Services and New York State’s First-Ever Master Plan for Aging

Seawright noted that New York has the fourth-largest senior population in the U.S., expected to reach 5.3 million by 2030. The plan, developed through collaboration with state agencies and stakeholders, focuses on nine pillars, including affordability, housing, healthcare, caregiver support, and elder abuse prevention.

“As the representative of Manhattan’s largest senior community, I applaud the Governor’s leadership in addressing critical issues for older New Yorkers,” Seawright said. She highlighted the recent historic \$45 million state funding increase to expand in-home and community services, helping seniors age safely in their own homes.

Seawright also discussed her legislative work to protect seniors from financial exploitation and to promote equity for older adults of color. She emphasized the “unavoidability of caregiving” and the need for greater support for family caregivers.

“I look forward to partnering with advocates and colleagues to implement this plan and ensure all seniors can age with dignity and independence,” she said.

Seawright fought for the inclusion of a 2.6% targeted inflationary increase for multiple health and human services agencies. Additional funding has been awarded to the following organizations serving our community:

- New York Foundation for Senior Citizens Home Sharing and Respite Programs
- Met Council on Jewish Poverty
- LISMA Foundation
- Older Adults Technology Center
- Project Guardianship
- LiveOn NY
- SAGE LGBT Welcome Elder Housing
- Statewide Senior Action Council Patients’ Rights Hotline
- Holocaust Survivors Initiative



## Seawright Backs ‘Priscilla’s Law’ to Stop E-Bike Accidents Before They Happen

In response to the tragic death of Priscilla Loke, “Priscilla’s Law” was introduced to require all electric bikes and scooters in New York City to be registered and display license plates. Assembly Member Seawright is a cosponsor and strong supporter of this legislation [A.339A](#), emphasizing the need to protect pedestrians and ensure accountability for riders. The bill is currently under consideration in both the State Legislature and City Council and has not yet been enacted. Seawright remains committed to advancing this critical measure to improve safety on our streets.

# Protecting Our Communities: Advancing Safety and Justice in New York

Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright continues to prioritize the safety and well-being of all New Yorkers. Included in this year’s budget were the following key initiatives:

- **Invested in gun violence prevention** by funding programs and establishing the State Office of Gun Violence Prevention.
- **Reformed discovery laws** to close loopholes that previously led to case dismissals, ensuring justice and peace of mind for crime victims.
- **Toughened penalties for masked crimes**, making it harder for offenders to hide their identities while committing criminal acts.
- **Expanded involuntary commitment laws** to help individuals experiencing mental health crises access care—not jail—while keeping the public safe.

Through these initiatives, Seawright is working to create safer communities and a stronger, fairer justice system for all New Yorkers.

## Assembly Member Seawright Co-Sponsors Francesco’s Law to Enhance Gun Safety

Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright proudly co-sponsored and strongly supported the passage of Francesco’s Law in the Assembly. This legislation, **A.1962-B**, requires secure storage of firearms to prevent access by minors. Named after Francesco, a teenager who died by suicide with an unsecured gun, the law aims to reduce youth gun injuries and deaths. Seawright emphasizes that safe gun storage is vital to protecting young lives and promoting responsible ownership.



## Seawright Advances Reproductive Health Education and Access in NY

At a time when reproductive rights are under attack nationwide, Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright is working to ensure New Yorkers have access to essential treatment and care. She cosponsored and strongly supported legislation (**A.2581-B**), passed by both houses, to create a reproductive health education and outreach program. This initiative will raise awareness and connect individuals with vital information and affordable resources close to home.

### Looking Ahead...Continued from page 1

Seawright has introduced key legislation benefiting senior citizens, including:

- **Assembly Bill A.7847** – This bill would reform how the New York State Office for the Aging allocates funding to counties, ensuring allocations reflect the proportion of elderly residents. This change guarantees that New York City receives its fair share of resources for its senior population.
- **Assembly Bill A.7019 (Elder Fraud Protection Bill)** – Building on our ongoing efforts to combat elder exploitation, this common-sense measure has strong public support: a recent AARP survey found that 88% of New Yorkers aged 45 and older back it. Seawright will continue advocating vigorously to protect seniors from malicious scams.
- **Assembly Bill A.4628** – This bill would require movie theaters to provide showings with open motion picture captioning, making cinema experiences accessible to all New Yorkers statewide.

Seawright’s work reflects a continued commitment to fairness, safety, and accessibility for our senior communities. The fight is far from over, and she will press forward to turn these initiatives into law.

## More Legislative Updates...

Assembly Member Seawright helped pass the **Responsible Artificial Intelligence Safety and Education (RAISE) Act (A.6453A)**, setting safety standards for AI development. The law requires AI developers to create safety plans, undergo reviews, and report major incidents to state authorities—ensuring innovation continues while protecting public safety.

### Investing in Education: More Funding, Fewer Distractions, Greater Opportunities

Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright helped secure a budget that strengthens New York’s schools and expands opportunities for students of all ages:

- **Increased school aid by \$1.7 billion**, including a \$1.4 billion boost in Foundation Aid, ensuring every school district receives at least a 2% increase over last year.
- **Implemented a bell-to-bell cell phone ban** in classrooms to reduce distractions and help students stay focused on learning.
- **Created the New York Opportunity Promise Scholarship**, providing free community college tuition for students ages 25-55 pursuing careers in high-demand fields.
- **Invested in college affordability programs**, restoring \$9 million for College Opportunity Programs and adding \$3 million in additional funding to help students pursue higher education.

With these initiatives, Seawright is expanding access to education, reducing barriers, and empowering students across the state to achieve their full potential.



## Assembly Member Seawright Celebrates Roosevelt Island’s 50th Anniversary with Legislative Resolution

On Roosevelt Island Day, Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright proudly presented a legislative resolution she passed in Albany commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Roosevelt Island community. She presented the resolution to Dhruvika Patel Amin, Chief Financial Officer and Vice President of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIO), and a proclamation to Judy Berdy, President of the Roosevelt Island Historical Society. This milestone honors five decades of community growth and resilience. Seawright remains committed to supporting initiatives that enhance life for Roosevelt Island residents.

# Seawright Strengthens Protections for New Yorkers with Disabilities

On Legislative Disabilities Awareness Day, Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright helped pass a package of bills to make New York safer, more accessible, and more equitable for people with disabilities. Key Measures include:

- **Promoting Employment** – Task force to expand job opportunities for people with disabilities (A.33)
- **Emergency Preparedness** – Specialized firefighter training for assisting individuals with disabilities (A.688)
- **Protecting Rights** – Restores state employees’ ability to sue for ADA and related violations (A.2589-A)
- **Accessible Care** – Ensures interpreters stay with patients until hospital staff is assigned (A.3404)
- **Service Improvements** – Blue-ribbon commission to review and improve developmental disabilities programs (A.6021-A)

Seawright said, “I’ll keep fighting to make New York a more equitable and inclusive place where all individuals have the chance to thrive.”

## Honoring Leaders in Senior Care at Older New Yorkers Day

Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright recognized Linda Hoffman, President and CEO, and Barbara Baer, Director of NYFSC’s Home Sharing and Respite Care programs. The programs were renamed—thanks to funding Seawright secured in a past state budget—in honor of the late Congressman Charles B. Rangel and his wife, Alma Rangel, a longtime social worker, advocate, and NYFSC board member.

For over 50 years, NYFSC has pioneered alternatives to nursing home care, helping older New Yorkers age in place. Seawright praised their “vital work that has redefined elder care in New York City” and celebrated their continued impact across all five boroughs.



## Seawright Cosponsors Penny’s Law to Hold Negligent Pet Owners Criminally Accountable

Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright has joined as a cosponsor of Penny’s Law, inspired by Penny, the Chihuahua who was attacked by two dogs on the Upper West Side and recently visited Albany with her owner to advocate for the measure that she inspired. The bill [A.8462](#) establishes new offenses for the negligent and reckless handling of a dog, addressing a gap in current law where a handler allowing their dog to injure or kill another dog is generally not a crime unless a human is harmed—because dogs are legally considered “property.” Tragically, many owners only discover this after their beloved pet is hurt or killed, compounding their grief when they realize there may be no legal recourse. Penny’s Law seeks to correct this injustice and hold negligent owners criminally accountable.



Community Office of Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright  
1485 York Avenue, New York, NY 10075

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## Strengthening the City’s Rent Freeze Program for Seniors and People with Disabilities

Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright joined advocates at a press conference to call for expanding eligibility for city programs that keep housing costs affordable for older New Yorkers. Research from AARP and the Center for an Urban Future reveals that more than 250,000 older adults in New York City live in poverty—a 40% increase over the last decade—and 60% of those over age 70 lack a stable source of retirement income.

Current programs, such as the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) and Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE), are tied to an outdated \$50,000 income cap. Adjusted for inflation, the threshold should be \$67,000. Updating these programs is essential to help seniors and people with disabilities remain in their homes, aging in place with dignity and independence.

