



Assemblymember PATRICIA A. FAHY

109th Assembly District



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December 2024

Happy Holidays to you and your families! As many of you know, I was recently elected to the New York State Senate in the 46th District. Over the last decade and more, it has been the honor of my lifetime to serve as your Assemblymember for the 109th District, and it will be a privilege to continue serving you and your families as your next State Senator. Together, we've delivered good-paying jobs and fought for transformative projects that will grow our Capital Region, secured record increases in higher education funding, protected our water and environment, and fought to keep our communities and families safe. I look forward to continuing to address the housing crisis, strengthen public safety, tackle gun violence in our communities, and provide relief to families and workers amidst an affordability crisis. Please see the second page of this newsletter for a farewell message from me.

As Higher Education Chair, I'm thrilled to see our record investments in expanding the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) resulting in 92,000 more students and families receiving and becoming eligible for increased award amounts! Finally, I'm thrilled to have designated and delivered state funding across the 109th District this year through grants and other initiatives, which help fund parks, sidewalks, strengthen our communities, and make our Capital Region a better place to live, work, and recreate; and I look forward to accomplishing more.

Apply for TAP for the 2024-2025 Academic Year!

New eligibility for \$125K income or less. Go to this link to apply now:
www.tap.hesc.ny.gov/totw/



Feura Bush Town Park Playground Ribbon Cutting. I was proud to designate \$125,000 to the Town of New Scotland for a new playground in Feura Bush, which will provide space for community, recreation, and togetherness in our community. Thank you to Speaker Heastie for helping allocate these funds in the state budget.



Veteran's Services: The New York State Department of Veterans' Services has experienced Benefit Advisors ready to help complete applications, obtain necessary documentation, file claims for veterans' benefits, and more. To schedule an appointment with a Veterans' Service Benefit Advisor, visit veterans.ny.gov.

Our Legislation Signed Into Law

While we are still awaiting action on a number of my bills passed by both houses of the State Legislature, below are a few pieces of legislation that have already been signed into law by the Governor.

Albany County Pine Hills Land Authority (A.10358/S.9569)

- Ensuring we have a plan for the former College of Saint Rose properties in Albany's Pine Hills Neighborhood has been one of my top priorities, and I'm thrilled **the Governor has signed this bill into law**. As reported, the College of Saint Rose announced its difficult decision just over a year ago to close, leaving 87 properties, primarily in the City of Albany and Albany County's Pine Hills neighborhood, vacant. After months of discussion to ensure that former Saint Rose properties are eventually repurposed, redeveloped, and obtained at optimal market value, this legislation created a county-level public benefit authority, the ACPHLA, to coordinate this effort. This will revitalize the area and provide new opportunities for our community.
- Now that the ACPHLA has officially met and formed, I look forward to seeing this entity guide and help direct the redevelopment process for the Saint Rose properties. **Please stay updated by following the work of the ACPHLA through the Albany County Legislature and consider getting involved in this important community initiative.**



Albany PAL New Gym Floor. Albany's Police Athletic League gym needed a new floor, and I'm pleased to have designated \$125,000 for this. The Albany PAL connects our police force and community, so check them out at AlbanyPAL.org to see what they have in store. We were joined by County Executive McCoy and APD Chief Hawkins.

Continued on next page

Our Legislation Signed Into Law (continued)

- Like other public redevelopment authorities, the ACPHLA can plan, develop, acquire, construct, own, and operate the College of Saint Rose's former properties. To provide financing to facilitate this, the ACPHLA is authorized to issue bonds and the power to levy and collect such fees, revenues, or other income as it may deem necessary to use any facility, project, or property under its authority.



Albany Named National Semiconductor Engineering Hub. New York's semiconductor industry is booming, and for decades to come, upstate New York will be the global hub for semiconductor engineering! With help from Senator Chuck Schumer, Albany will be the home of a federal semiconductor technology center – the first of its kind in the nation.

AMTRAK Service Restored: Given the recently announced cuts to Amtrak service at the Albany-Rensselaer Train Station, I coauthored a letter with AM McDonald to the U.S. Department of Transportation urging them to reverse this decision and implement temporary volume measures. These reductions will hurt our local economy and drive costs up for families, and while these disruptions have been paused for now, I look forward to continuing to advocate for critical service. Proud it led to a pause! Read the full letter here: bit.ly/amtrakltr



Tightening Up the Nation's First Gun Industry Liability Law (A.7555/S.7392)

- This legislation has been signed into law by the Governor, and technical changes were made to ensure that the Attorney General's office can continue effective implementation of the original law, enacted in 2021.
- Cracking down on gun violence and the proliferation of illegal firearms throughout our communities remains one of my top priorities, which is why I was proud to sponsor legislation creating the nation's first gun industry liability law in New York State in 2021. This law holds gun distributors liable for reckless or negligent conduct that supplies the flow of illegal firearms into our communities, and makes technical amendments to strengthen the original law. It's a crucial step in our fight against gun violence and ensuring the safety of our communities.

Keep Students in NY: Expanding Internship Opportunities for Students (A.8346/S.7808)

- I'm pleased that this legislation has been signed into law by the Governor, as it will improve access to those opportunities by directing SUNY and CUNY to develop a plan to require completing internship opportunities for students before graduation.
- Connecting students with internship opportunities and requiring that every student complete at least one has been a critical priority as Higher Education Chair. Internships and experiential learning help improve a student's prospect of landing a job opportunity post-graduation and retain more students in New York State, with 7 out of 10 students who complete an internship receiving an offer post-graduation.

Holiday Blues? The Holidays can be difficult for those who have lost someone or are struggling with their mental health. The **988 Lifeline** provides 24/7, free, and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones, and best practices for professionals in the U.S. For help, call **9-8-8**.



Looking Back on 12 Years of Service

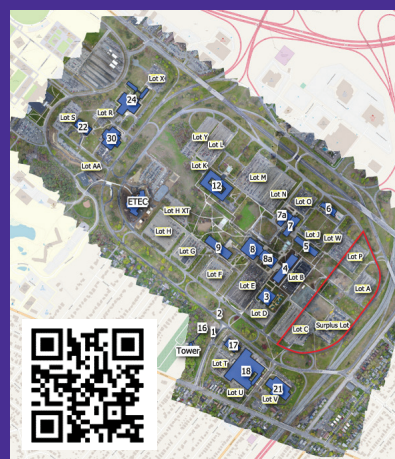
It's been the honor of my lifetime to serve as your State Assemblymember, and I look forward to continuing our work together in the State Senate starting in January.

Together, we've accomplished a great deal, including transformative projects, budget initiatives, and legislation. Below are just a few highlights:

- Making college more affordable with a historic expansion of the state's Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) (A.3006C),
- Reversing devastating cuts to our P-12 public schools, they are now funded at record levels (A.3006C),
- Reimagining I-787 here in the Capital Region (A.3172 of 2021),
- Enacting legislation requiring the state to reimburse counties for providing indigent legal services (A.6202 of 2016),
- Keeping the state's Wadsworth public health labs in the Capital Region and securing \$1.7 billion for upgrades and consolidation (A.3007C),
- Enacting the nation's first Gun Industry Liability Law and state level workaround of the federal PCLAA (A.6762 of 2021),
- Enacting the nation's first Right to Repair law to save families money on their electronic devices and appliances (A.7006B of 2021),
- Combatting the climate crisis with my enacted landmark 30x30 law (A.5390B of 2021),
- Enacted legislation authorizing school zone speed cameras in Albany City School District (A.7043),
- Fighting for an expanded Earned Income Tax Credit that resulted in a one-time expansion and financial relief to middle-class and working families (A.5577A), and more.

I'm proud that our work will leave our Capital Region and New York State a better place to work, live, and raise a family. Some of the work I'm also proud of is assisting constituents like you navigate New York State government, services, and benefits. I've been pleased to designate state funding across so many of our communities in the 109th District, for including playgrounds, parks, and sidewalks so students can travel safely to and from school. Together, I look forward to continuing to address the housing crisis, strengthening public safety and addressing gun violence in our communities, and providing relief to families and workers amidst an affordability crisis. None of this work would've been possible without your support over the last 12 years. Please continue to follow our important work in the State Senate. Thank you for the opportunity to represent you and your families in the State Assembly—it has been the honor and privilege of a lifetime.

Sincerely,



To the left is a rendering of the Harriman Campus as it relates to the Wadsworth Public Health Labs project, which advocates for a fence and/or wall around the entirety of the property (see red line opposite). While security is vital, I oppose the fence which will further disconnect another portion of the Harriman Campus from the City of Albany and I'm concerned this is moving us backwards. Source: NYS Dormitory Authority.





I was proud to join and address New York State's EMS Remembrance Ceremony on the Empire State Plaza, where we memorialized those we've lost in the line of service this past year. To the families of those we've lost in the line of duty; their memory, mission, and duty is never forgotten.

Fahy Bills Awaiting the Governor's Signature

The following pieces of legislation are bills of mine that still need to be signed by the Governor but were successfully passed by the Assembly and Senate.

Short-Term Rental Registry & Data (A.4130/S.885)

- Short-term rentals help boost New York's tourism economy, and homeowners generate extra income, often serving as rural areas' sole visitor lodging option. However, the exponential growth of this multi-billion-dollar industry has exacerbated the housing crisis by reducing housing availability, driving up costs, and displacing long-term residents.
- This bill will allow communities across the state to address these challenges by providing complete transparency of local housing landscapes and delivering tens of millions of dollars in new sales and occupancy tax revenue to support communities.
- The bill would require property owners to register their short-term rentals if signed into law. Based on that information, monthly reports to municipalities may detail the number of rentals in their community, their locations, and occupancy nights. This legislation levels the playing field for hotels and motels by collecting sales and occupancy tax on short-term rentals, addressing an estimated \$550 million in lost local revenue over the past five years.

OPINION

Commentary: Regulating short-term rentals will support upstate's tourism boom

Short-Term Rental Op-Ed: I wrote an op-ed in the Times Union to urge that the Governor sign this legislation before the end of the session. It successfully passed both houses and now awaits the Governor's signature to help track and rein in a more than \$1 billion industry in New York State outside of NYC alone. To read more, click on the QR code.



Requiring EV-Ready Infrastructure in New Construction (A.3780/S.1736)

- This bill requires EV-ready parking spaces as part of new commercial and residential construction projects where off-street parking is available.
- As New York seeks to incentivize more personal electric vehicle ownership, we must have the infrastructure to meet present and future demand as more and more vehicles hit the road.
- This legislation helps provide New Yorkers with the charging infrastructure necessary to usher in our electric future.

Empire State Trail Detours and Disruptions (A.8274/S.7807)

- Often, portions of the Empire State Trail, including pedestrian access on the Dunn Memorial Bridge, are closed without notice. This legislation ensures that detours will be posted well in advance to minimize disruptions to daily commute schedules and visitors.
- More than 8 million users travel the Empire State Trail annually, generating more than \$274 million in economic activity. Signed detours will help ensure reliability and ensure we continue to maximize its impact.
- As New York's adventure and outdoor tourism sector grows, we must be ready to meet the demand and influx of visitors over the coming years.

Utility bills are rising, but New York State is here to help. Visit ny.gov/heat or scan the QR code below to see if New York can help you stay warm this winter.

Establishing Liability for Bulk Storage of Crude Oil (A.9213/S.8703)

- Protecting our communities from potential disasters, especially environmental ones, is vital to our critical safety and protecting lives. Legislation I sponsored with Senator Michelle Hinchey mandates liability coverage for operators in the case of a catastrophic disaster when bulk storing crude oil. This bill is vital for Albany, which sees many rail cars that carry crude oil pass through our area as a significant transportation and rail hub.
- Additionally, this bill adds a strong layer of protection and accountability to Albany and communities across New York State as these disasters continue amidst longer freight distances.



Veteran Tuition Assistance: As Chair of the Higher Education committee, I'm proud to have made enormous increases in TAP funding. I joined a press conference at SUNY Schenectady Community College to call for increased funding for Veteran's TAP, extending it to all veterans, not just those who served in active combat duty roles. The Governor has since signed this bill into law!

Expanding Tuition Assistance for Veterans (A.9205)

- State law prohibits veterans who served but were not deployed to an active combat zone from accessing Veteran Tuition Assistance (VTA). Current policy creates an arbitrary distinction based on whether a veteran was deployed to a combat zone, which is often beyond the individual's control. This exclusion fails to recognize that every veteran who raised their hand did so with the full intention of serving in combat if called upon. This bill, now signed by the Governor, corrects this policy inequity in New York State, and I am thrilled to have shepherded this legislation through the Higher Education Committee.

Albany Nano Complex Land-Lease (A.10456/S.9738)

- Our Capital Region stands at the forefront of AI and semiconductor engineering, and cemented critical progress as one of three National Semiconductor Research Hubs. This new industry will create thousands of good-paying jobs for Capital Region families and workers.
- This critical legislation authorizes a land lease to strengthen Albany's NanoTech Complex, which has helped establish the Capital Region and Upstate New York as the semiconductor engineering and nanotechnology industry's national epicenter.

Looking Forward To The Future

De-Carbonizing the State Capitol with the Renewable Capitol Act (A.5633B Fahy/S.2689 Breslin)

- Enacting the Renewable Capitol Act would help hit our climate goals by converting the Capitol and the other buildings of the Empire State Plaza Complex to 100% clean and renewable energy. The act will also help to fulfill our climate goals by providing climate justice for the Sheridan Hollow neighborhood; the neighborhood has endured decades of pollution from the Sheridan Avenue Steam Plant, which heats and cools the Empire State Plaza.
- While the bill did not pass, I am thrilled this is already having far-reaching impacts; and as a result of our efforts, NYS OGS is prioritizing the decarbonization of the State Capitol and Empire State Plaza as the first of the highest 15-emitting state properties in New York to transition to clean and renewable energy.



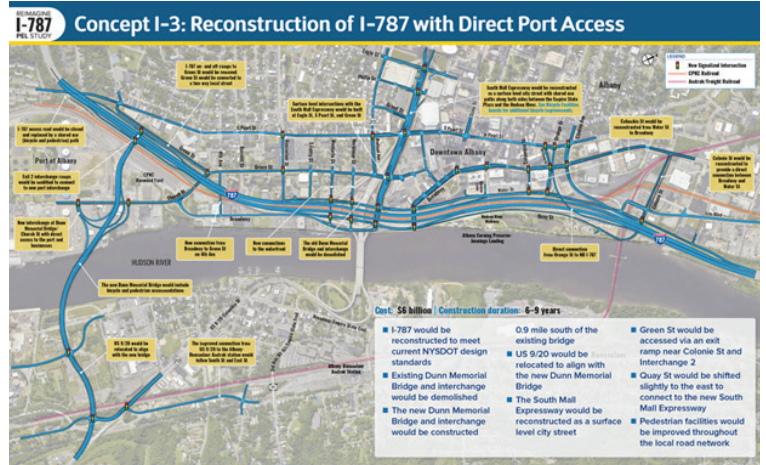
Direct to Consumer Cider and Liquor Shipment. Several breweries, cideries, distilleries, wineries, and meaderies- like Nine Pin- call our community home. I'm proud to support New York's recently signed direct-to-consumer shipment bill, which allows these local small businesses to bring their products into a new market. Thank you to sponsors Assemblymember Donna Lupardo and State Senator James Skoufis for their work on this.

New York State Assembly • Albany, New York 12248



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Patricia A. FAHY

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Reimagining 787: Public comment has now closed on the Reimagining 787 study. I'm thrilled to see high participation from our community as I've continued to champion this initiative over the last 5 years. To view some of the concepts proposed, including the one above, visit 787.dot.ny.gov



Making EVs More Affordable with an EV Tax Exemption (A.3159 Fahy)

- With imminent changes to federal policy, it is now more critical than ever for the state government to encourage the purchase of electric vehicles. This act would create a tax exemption on the first \$35,000 of a battery, electric, or plug-in hybrid electric vehicle, making it easier for consumers to make climate-friendly decisions.
- Despite an increasing acceptance rate in the United States, HEVs and PEVs account for only a tiny percentage of total U.S. vehicle sales. Encouraging the sales of these vehicles is consistent with New York's drive towards cleaner air, and exempting them from state sales taxes will make them more affordable for New Yorkers.

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Do you know a long-operating, historic business in the 109th District or Capital Region?

Nominate them for the NYS Historic Business Registry! Criteria can be found at the QR code – send your nominations to us at fahyp@nyassembly.gov!

