

Dear Neighbor,

Now that the 2022 legislative session has reached its end, I wanted to share with you a few highlights on what I've accomplished this year to improve our community. In the wake of the Supreme Court's recent rulings, my colleagues and I took swift action to keep our community safe by strengthening gun safety measures and protecting reproductive rights. I've also had the pleasure of meeting many new constituents this month when I visited Starbucks in Niskayuna to show my support for their successful unionization effort, celebrated Pride month with In Our Own Voices and spoke on the panel for the Capital Region Workforce Development Board. As always, if you have any questions or concerns regarding any community issue, please don't hesitate to contact my office at 518-377-0902 or [SteckP@nyassembly.gov](mailto:SteckP@nyassembly.gov).

All the Best,  
Phil Steck

## *Legislative Updates*



## **Protecting Reproductive Rights**

The recent Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* threatens millions of women's lives and bodily autonomy, which is why I passed legislation to protect women and health care providers. To prevent unlawful interference with protected rights, I helped pass legislation that allows a person to bring a cause of action in New York State when they can demonstrate that they exercised, attempted to exercise, facilitated or attempted to facilitate the exercise of a protected right in New York which resulted in litigation in any court in the United States.

As anti-choice statehouses enact strict abortion bans, we need to do all that we can to ensure anyone who needs reproductive care can access it, and that starts with defending health practitioners from legal action. I helped pass legislation to protect health care practitioners from malpractice for performing, recommending or providing reproductive health care services for a patient who resides in a state wherein these services are illegal.

Additionally, I helped pass a law protecting reproductive health care providers from adverse action for legally providing reproductive care services to someone from out of state or via telehealth to someone out of state. Lastly, I helped ensure reproductive health care providers and their immediate family members, employees, volunteers, and patients are eligible for New York's Address Confidentiality Program. The law allows individuals to apply for a designated address to receive mail instead of using their actual address.

## **Gun Safety Legislation**

In June, my colleagues and I passed a comprehensive and commonsense gun safety legislative package to help keep our communities safe against the scourge of gun violence. I helped strengthen the 2019 Red Flag law by expanding those who can file an Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) to include health care professionals who have examined the individual within the last six months. The measure requires police and district attorneys to file ERPO petitions for individuals likely to harm themselves or others. The law also considers reports from mental health professionals in determining whether to issue firearm licenses and expands the list of mental health professionals whose reports are considered.

I also helped pass legislation requiring all state and law enforcement agencies to report seized or recovered guns to the criminal gun clearinghouse and provide relevant data for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives' (ATF) data sharing program and National Integrated Ballistic Information Network. It also requires gun dealers to implement a safety plan, prohibit unattended minors from accessing certain parts of the premises and strengthen record-keeping requirements. Gun dealers would also be subject to

New York State Police inspections every three years.

### **Social Media Legislation**

To address hate on social media, I helped pass legislation that requires social media networks to provide a clear and concise policy regarding how they would respond to incidents of hateful conduct on their platforms. Furthermore, I helped pass legislation that establishes a task force on social media and violent extremism within the Attorney General's Office to study and investigate the role of social media companies in promoting and facilitating violent extremism and domestic terrorism online. Recent legislation also requires review of social media accounts prior to approving a concealed carry license.

## ***In The Community***

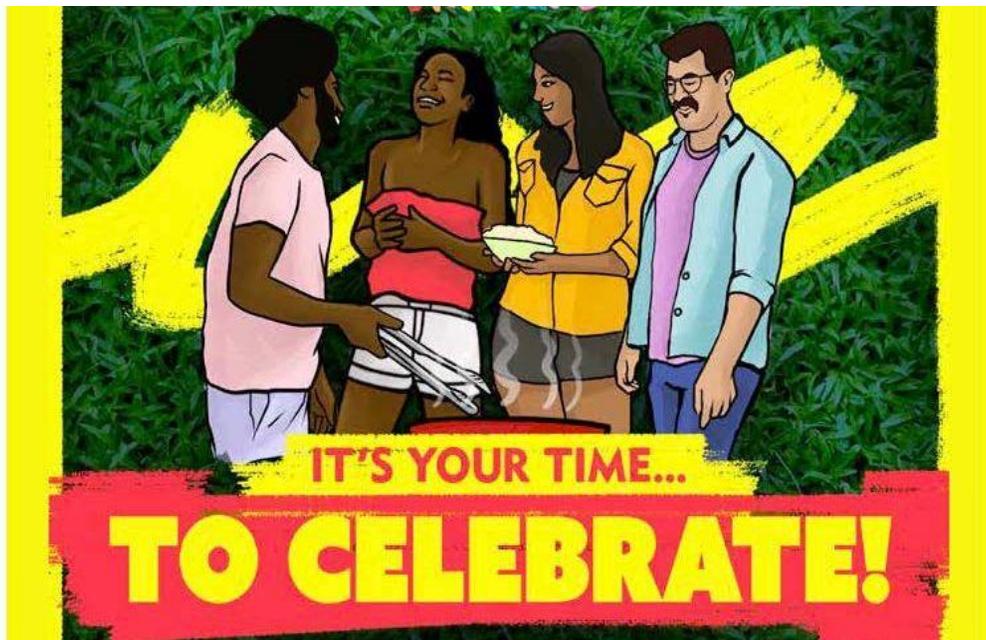
### **Support for Niskayuna Starbucks Unionization**

On June 28, I visited the Niskayuna Starbucks in ShopRite Square to show my support and solidarity with their recent unionization. Since last year, employee-led labor organizing efforts successfully unionized hundreds of Starbucks stores. During the pandemic, Starbucks employees endured the stress of many frontline workers and spoke out about using their collective bargaining to improve working conditions. These improvements include higher pay, more hours, better COVID-19 safety precautions, expanded training for new hires and facility updates.



## Celebrating Pride Month

On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, I joined [In Our Own Voices](#) for their substance-free picnic at Central Park in Schenectady to kick off Pride Month. It was great to be at an event, which provided members of the LGBTQ+ community with a comfortable atmosphere to celebrate their sobriety.



## Advocating for Skilled Trades

I was honored to participate in the Skilled Trades Workforce Development Coalition panel thanks to Christopher Dugan, Business Manager at North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters and the [Capital Region Workforce Development Board](#). Skilled trade careers are vital to our communities. Jobs in skilled trades lead to family-sustaining careers that afford opportunity for individuals in the Capital Region.



## ***Useful Information & Tips***

### **The Home Assistance Program**

The Home Assistance Program (HEAP) can help eligible New Yorkers heat and cool their homes in a variety of ways, including electricity, natural gas, oil, coal, wood, and corn. You may receive one regular HEAP benefit per program year if you are eligible. You may also be eligible for Emergency HEAP benefits if you are in danger of running out of fuel or losing your utility services. Click [here](#) to learn more.

### **Summer Meals**

The end of the school year marks the beginning of summer meals for kids and teens across the state. These free meals will be available at parks, community centers and libraries in your community, with many sites also offering fun activities. While the meals offered vary, they all will contain healthy foods such as fruits, vegetables, grains, and protein. No sign up is necessary, just show up to your local site. For more information on the Summer Food Service Program and to find a site near you, click [here](#).

## **Hiring Lifeguards**

Lifeguards are a lifeline to the New York State parks system, protecting more than 25 million swimmers annually. I encourage anyone who is a strong swimmer and loves the outdoors to apply to the positions available statewide to protect our communities as they enjoy our state parks this summer. For more information on how to qualify and apply click [here](#).