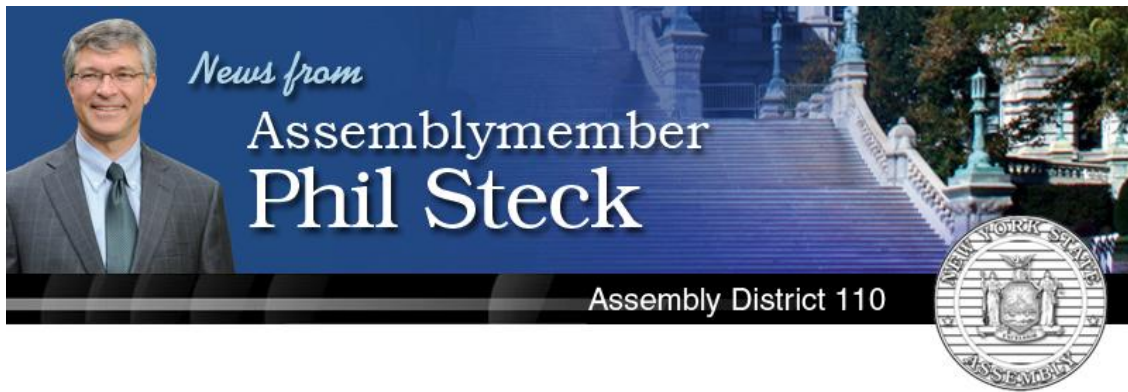




This month, I continue to focus on making New York more affordable, addressing the housing challenges facing our region, and advancing policies that support individuals struggling with substance use disorder and mental health challenges. I am also proud to share progress on legislation aimed at protecting public health, supporting our first responders, and responding to the evolving overdose crisis with solutions rooted in science and compassion. As the budget continues to be negotiated, I am hopeful negotiations will wrap up quickly so we can turn our attention to making New York more affordable and help those with substance use disorder.

I had the opportunity to welcome the Siena Men's Basketball team to the State Capitol to recognize their outstanding season and NCAA Tournament appearance, as well as attend a meaningful Armenian Genocide Remembrance event hosted by the Holy Cross Armenian Apostolic Church of Troy. I also met with local advocates from Kol Yisroel who are working to strengthen safety in their community, reinforcing the importance of listening and working together to move important efforts forward.

I am especially looking forward to our upcoming Women of Distinction Awards, where we will celebrate five remarkable women whose leadership and service have made a lasting impact across the 110th Assembly District. I hope to see you there!

As always, it is an honor to serve you. Please do not hesitate to reach out to my office at 518-377-0902 or SteckP@nyassembly.gov if there is anything I can do to help.

Best,
Phil Steck

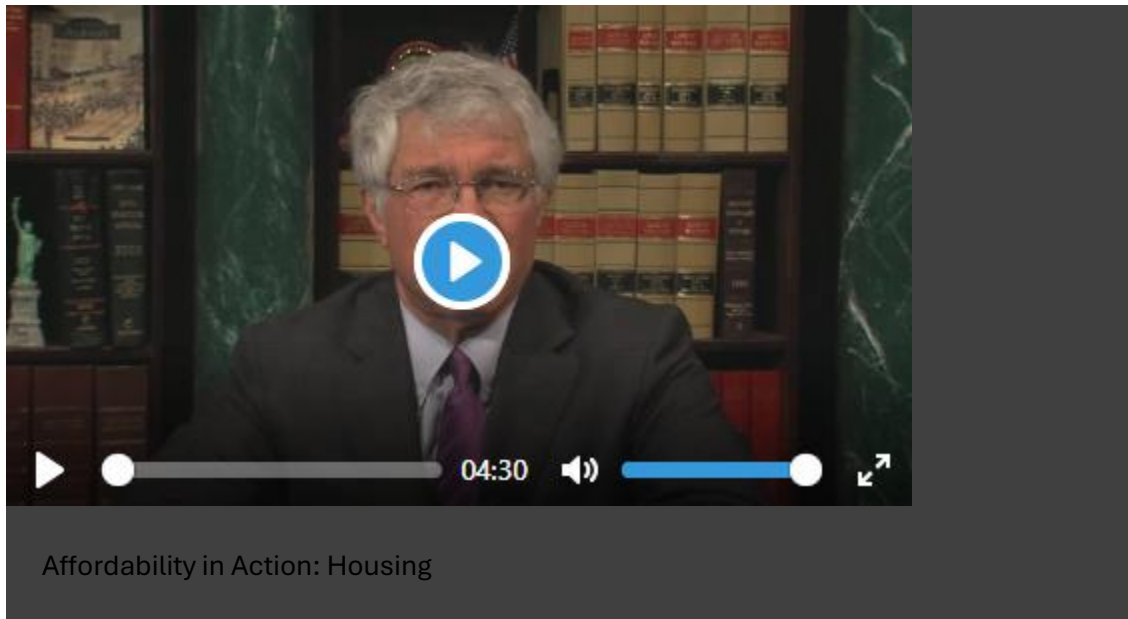
Legislative Updates

Affordability in Action: Housing

In the latest edition of my *Affordability in Action* series, I take a closer look at the housing crisis, what is driving rising costs, and what we can do to make housing more accessible and affordable for everyone.

I encourage you to take a few minutes to watch and learn more about how this issue is impacting our communities and what solutions we should be advancing.

Watch here: <https://www.assembly.ny.gov/mem/?ad=110&sh=video>



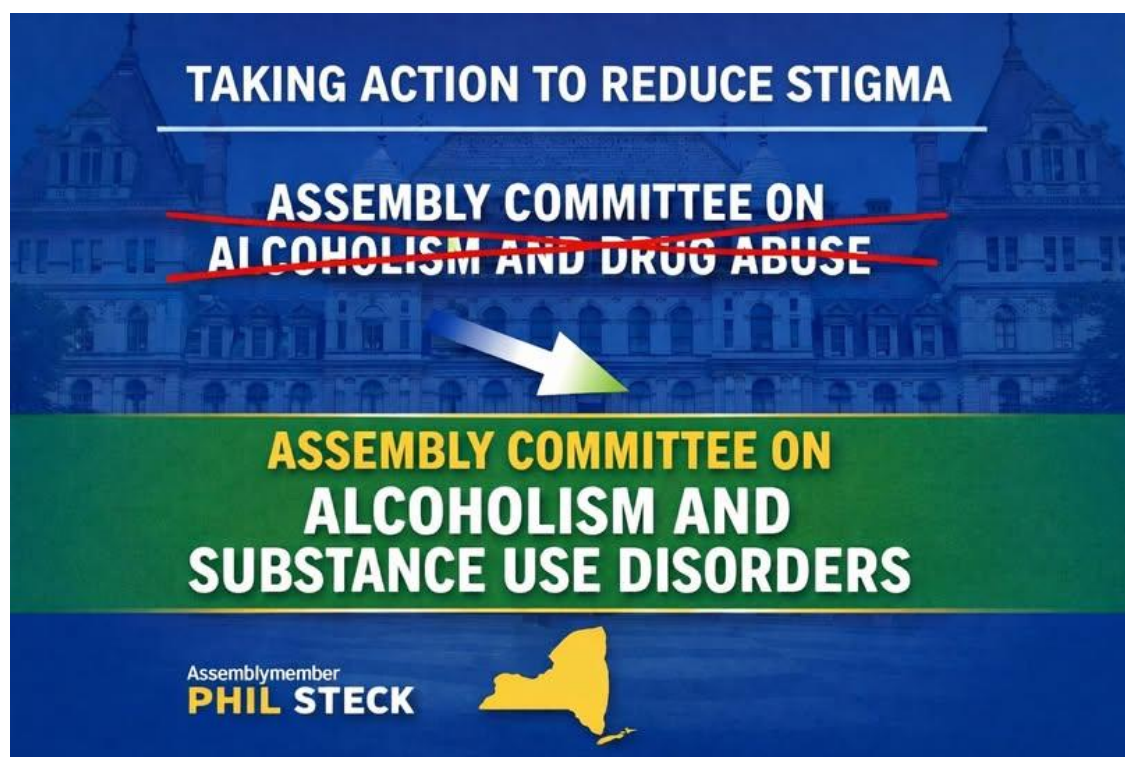
Removing the Stigma Advancing a Name Change to Reduce Stigma and Support Recovery

Since becoming Chair of the Assembly Standing Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, our committee has focused on increasing funding for treatment programs for New Yorkers diagnosed with substance use disorder and providing them with the resources they need to live productive lives in recovery. As a committee tasked with helping New Yorkers who are struggling with substance use, it sends the wrong message to the very people we are trying to support when we refer to substance use disorder as “drug abuse.” When I meet with individuals in recovery, they almost always tell me that the name of our

committee reinforces the stigma that addiction is a moral failing and ask that it be changed.

Based on the feedback I have received, I am leading a bipartisan coalition of lawmakers to change the name of our committee from “Alcoholism and Drug Abuse” to “Alcoholism and Substance Use Disorders,” mirroring the action the New York State Senate took in 2023. While this change may seem symbolic, stigma remains the number one barrier to treatment and recovery for people diagnosed with substance use disorder. As a committee dedicated to helping New Yorkers, this change is an important step in showing that we are truly committed to supporting those who need help.

I also want to thank Ranking Member Keith Brown for his partnership in reducing the stigma surrounding substance use disorder and the committee members on both sides of the aisle for supporting this effort.



Motion to Discharge Bypasses Committee Process

There has been a lot of misinformation about my recent vote on a motion to discharge legislation that would provide new tax credits to volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance corps workers ([A.1064](#)). Despite what some have portrayed this vote as, this vote was not on a piece of legislation. It was a vote to bypass the standard Assembly

committee procedure to force a vote on the floor. I do not, and have never, supported bypassing the normal legislative process to bring legislation to the floor. These motions are often used to deceive the public into thinking their representatives don't support certain legislation.

In March, after speaking to a local volunteer firefighter in Colonie, I introduced legislation that would increase the property tax deduction for volunteer firefighters and EMS from 10% to 20% ([A10613](#)). This property tax deduction was first established in 1999. While this deduction can go a long way to help volunteer firefighters, the 10% deduction is extremely outdated. Increasing the property tax exemption will help our local volunteer fire companies address the recruitment crisis they are facing. I also carry legislation that would increase the permanent and temporary disability benefits from \$600 a week to \$900 a week ([A1849](#)). These are both commonsense measures to ensure our volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers receive the benefits they deserve.

I have also worked to secure funding for the area firefighters, such as \$250,000 to the Boght Community Fire District to purchase a new fire boat, \$125,000 to Niskayuna Fire District No.1 for interior and exterior renovations at the fire house and \$250,000 to the Town of Colonie to purchase a fully equipped ambulance (CREST 2025, SAM 2018, SAM 2019). I also secured \$125,000 for the City of Schenectady Fire Department to purchase a newly equipped fire engine, \$250,000 to make campus and fire tower improvements to the City of Schenectady Fire Training Center and \$650,000 for the Town of Colonie to purchase new emergency equipment (CREST 2023, SAM 2016, NYCAP).

This funding also includes \$675,000 to the Town of Colonie Municipal Training Center for building improvements and to purchase a new fire tower and an auto fire simulator and \$350,000 to the Town's Police Department to purchase new radios (CREST 2023, NYCAP). I also secured \$100,000 for exterior improvements to the Town of Guilderland Fire Training Center, \$75,000 for the Town of Guilderland Ambulance Squad to improve ambulances and \$25,000 to the Village of Menands Police Department to purchase equipment for the Joint Services Rapid Deployment Squad, totaling over \$3 million (CREST 2024, PP 2025, PP 2024).

As session nears its end, I will continue to prioritize legislation and grant funding that will help our first responders when done the right way. I have and always will vote against motions to discharge since it is not fair for a member to attempt to bypass the committee process to force a vote on their bill. We must always support our local heroes, but legislation to do this needs to be done the right way.



OFFICIAL STATEMENT

The fire service is built on community, service, and respect—values which our volunteers uphold every day and which our organization operates on. As such, the Firefighters Association of the State of New York (FASNY) strongly condemns any rhetoric that suggests or promotes violence against elected officials, their families, or any member of our communities. Recent posts being circulated do not reflect who we are.

FASNY urges a constructive and unified focus on advancing meaningful solutions for the volunteer fire service, including S.6233 (Sen. Martinez) / A.6790 (AM Karen McMahon). This scorecard priority and long-overdue legislation would increase the volunteer firefighter and EMS income tax credit for the first time since 2006 and eliminate the outdated requirement forcing volunteers to choose between a state income tax credit and a local property tax exemption—changes that will strengthen recruitment and retention statewide.

We ask the Assembly to join the Senate and pass this bill without delay. Let's come together to support the volunteers who protect our communities every day.

107 Washington Avenue Suite M1 • Albany, NY 12210-2269 TOLL FREE 800.2FASNY2 (232.7692) FAX 518.426.0139 WEB fasny.com

Assembly Passes My Legislation on the Evolving Overdose Crisis

On June 3rd, Dr. Kimberly Boulden and Dr. Joshua Lynch testified before the New York State Assembly Alcoholism & Drug Abuse Committee that while New York State has a

robust program to provide fentanyl test strips to detect xylazine, there is no such program for other lethal adulterants that are far more potent than xylazine. Because of their testimony, I introduced and passed legislation unanimously that would require the Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) to provide fentanyl test strips at no charge that detect other adulterants, such as medetomidine, benzodiazepines, and nitazenes. The bill also grants OASAS the flexibility to provide test strips for other emerging adulterants that may contaminate fentanyl.

Like the program that provides xylazine test strips free of charge, it is important to note that this bill protects individuals from being targeted by law enforcement when they are obtaining a test strip at a hospital, addiction treatment center, or other medical facilities.

The passage of this legislation comes at a very critical time. Earlier this week, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) announced that recipients of funding from the federal government cannot use the funds to purchase test strips of any kind. This action directly contradicts the recommendations of medical professionals like Dr. Boulden and Dr. Lynch. Test strips are a proven way to reduce overdose rates in our communities because they give individuals the tools to test for harmful adulterants, like medetomidine, which is a horse tranquilizer.

As Chair, I will continue to champion legislation that is rooted in science so that we can protect New Yorkers from dangerous adulterants and prevent lethal overdoses.

COMBATING THE EVOLVING OVERDOSE CRISIS TO SAVE LIVES

A.9001
Passed in the Assembly

Assemblymember Steck's bill would require the Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) to provide fentanyl test strips, at no charge to the public, that detect lethal adulterants, such as medetomidine, benzodiazepine, and nitazenes. The legislation would also give OASAS the flexibility to provide test strips at no charge in the future for other lethal contaminants that may emerge.



Assemblymember Phil Steck
Chair of the Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Committee

Protecting Families from Harmful Food Chemicals

New Yorkers deserve to know exactly what's in the food they eat. The Food Safety and Chemical Disclosure Act bans dangerous additives like Red Dye 3, potassium bromate and propylparabens while requiring full ingredient transparency and accountability from manufacturers, producers and retailers (A.1556-G). I'll always fight for stronger protections that put the health and safety of our families first.

Protecting families from harmful food chemicals



In the Community

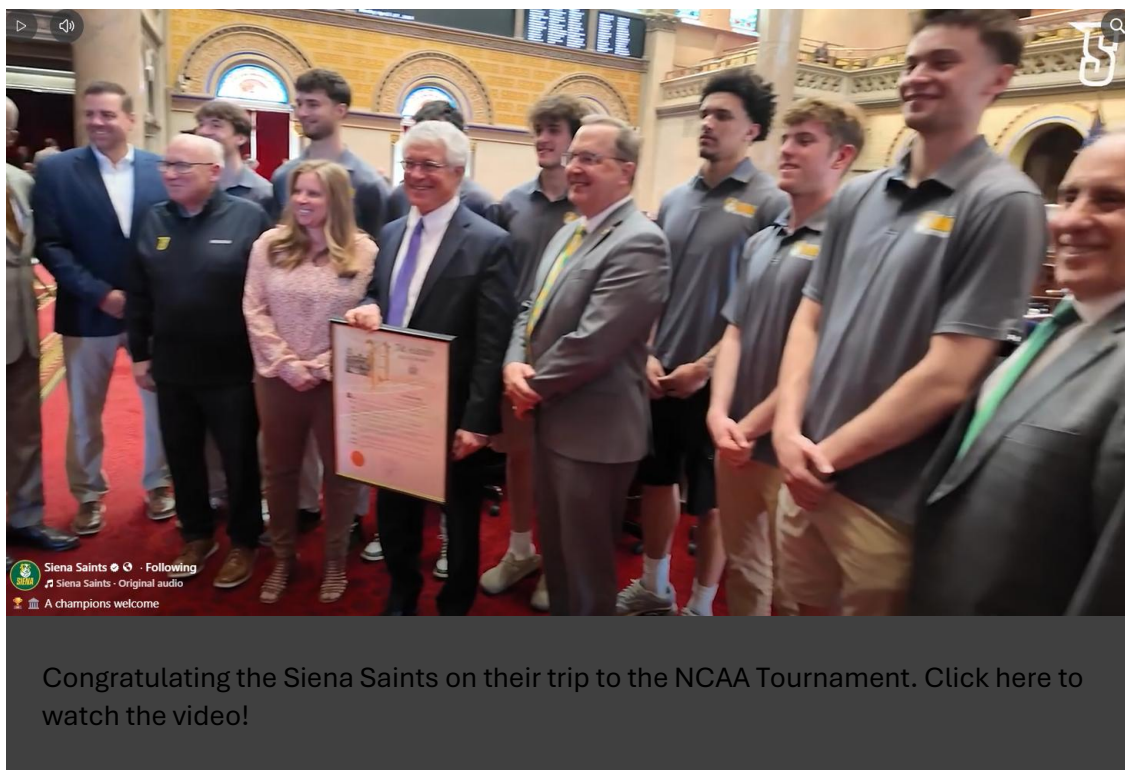
Congratulations to the Siena Saints

It was a pleasure to welcome the Siena Men's Basketball team to the State Capitol and present them with an official proclamation recognizing their outstanding season and well-earned trip to the NCAA Tournament.

This team represents everything we value in our community: hard work, discipline, and a commitment to excellence both on and off the court. Their success has brought a tremendous sense of pride to the entire Capital Region, and it was an honor to recognize

their achievements in Albany.

Congratulations to the players, coaches, and all of the Saints' fans who support this incredible program. We are all so proud of you.



Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day

I was honored to attend a meaningful commemoration of the Armenian Genocide hosted by the Holy Cross Armenian Apostolic Church of Troy.

We gathered to remember the 1.5 million Armenians who lost their lives and to reflect on the importance of recognizing this history with honesty and respect. Events like this are a powerful reminder of the resilience of the Armenian community and the responsibility we all share to stand against hatred, persecution, and injustice in all forms.

Thank you to Holy Cross for organizing such a thoughtful and moving program and for continuing to educate our community and honor those whose lives were lost.



Why Showing Up Matters

Grateful for moments like this that remind me why showing up matters. I had the opportunity to meet with a dedicated group of advocates from Kol Yisroel who have been working tirelessly to strengthen safety for their community. Even on a busy day in Albany, it was important to make the time to listen, connect, and help move their efforts forward. That is what this work is all about.

I am always here to listen and to do everything I can to help. Building relationships and working together is how we make real progress for our communities.

I am also incredibly thankful for my wonderful team, whose hard work behind the scenes makes moments like this possible every single day.



Samuel...

Founder Of Kol Yisroel
35m · 📍



2nd



Following



Yesterday was a powerful reminder of why we keep showing up.

On our 7th mission to Albany in the last 3 months, we experienced something that perfectly captures what advocacy is all about: relationships, persistence, and the courage to ask.

On our previous trip (March 24), we met with Assemblymember [Phillip Steck](#) who later co-sponsored our legislation to create community safety zones outside houses of worship. Since then, I've stayed in touch with his legislative director, [Dylan MacQuoid](#).

Ahead of this trip, I asked their office for a simple favor: an introduction to Senator [Patricia Fahy](#) office, where we had a 2:00 PM meeting and hoped to secure Senate sponsorship.

Fast forward to yesterday...

Albany was hectic — budget delays meant canceled meetings at 10:00 AM and 1:30 PM. Our schedule shifted, gaps opened, and like many advocacy days, things felt uncertain.

Then, on the way up to Albany, I received a message from Dylan:
"Would you like to come to the Assemblyman's office at 1:45? He'll walk you over to the Senator."

I was honestly taken aback.

Not only did Assemblymember Steck make time in the middle of a chaotic day — he personally walked us to the Senator's office, opened the meeting with strong advocacy for our bill, and spoke with the authority and conviction of someone who truly cares.

That moment meant everything.

It's a testament to two simple truths:

There are genuinely good people in public service who want to help.

You have to ask — because if you don't ask, the answer is always no.

This is what happens when you show up in places like Albany consistently. You build real relationships — not just for yourself, but for your entire community.

Thank you, Assemblymember [Phillip Steck](#), for your generosity and leadership.

And thank you, [Dylan MacQuoid](#) — you made it happen. Onward.



Supportive Housing that Changes Lives

I'm proud to support the Governor's investment in Mohawk Heights, a critical new housing development right here in Schenectady that will serve individuals living with mental illness who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

As Chair of the Assembly Committee on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, I see every day how often individuals struggling with addiction are also dealing with co-occurring mental health disorders. Too many of these individuals also lack stable housing, which makes recovery and long-term stability even more difficult.

Developments like Mohawk Heights are essential because they provide not just a roof over someone's head, but the supportive services needed to help people manage their mental health, address substance use challenges and move forward with dignity and independence.

Read more about the project here: [Governor Hochul Announces Groundbreaking on 34-](#)

[Unit Specialized Housing Building in Schenectady to Provide Stability for Vulnerable Populations | Governor Kathy Hochul | New York State](#)



Join Us in Celebrating Our 2026 Women of Distinction

Each year, I have the privilege of recognizing incredible women in our community who go above and beyond to make a difference in the lives of others. I am proud to once again host my annual Women of Distinction Awards and I invite you to join us for this special evening.

This year, we will honor five outstanding women from the 110th Assembly District whose leadership, service and dedication have had a lasting impact on those around them. From education and healthcare to community leadership and advocacy, each of these honorees represents the very best of our community.

Please join us on Friday, May 15 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Village of Colonie Family Recreation Center, located at 3 Thunder Road in Albany. Together, we will celebrate Former Colonie Town Supervisor Mary E. Brizzell, North Colonie Board of Education President Linda Harrison, Niskayuna High School Nurse Carol Ann Werblin, community leader and sustainable development advocate Pamela Pearlman and Empire Christian Center Executive Pastor Christina D. Staton.

I hope you can join us as we recognize these remarkable women and celebrate the impact they have made in our community.

**ASSEMBLYMEMBER
PHIL STECK'S
WOMEN OF
DISTINCTION
AWARDS**



"My annual Women of Distinction Awards are an opportunity to shine a light on the extraordinary women who make a difference in the lives of so many people in our community. Join us as we honor the phenomenal women who lead in their respective fields and inspire others to strive for greatness."

Phil Steck

***Join us to celebrate
incredible women from
the 110th Assembly District***

***Women of Distinction Awards Ceremony
Friday, May 15 • 6 - 8 p.m.***

*Village of Colonie Family Recreation Center
3 Thunder Road, Colonie*



Assemblymember Phil Steck

1609 Union St., Schenectady NY 12309 • 518-377-0902 • SteckP@nysassembly.gov

Tips & Information

Protect Yourself from Lyme Disease

As we welcome warmer days and more people head outdoors, it's important to know the signs of Lyme disease and take steps to prevent it. Protect yourself and your family by wearing light-colored clothing, staying on clear, well-traveled trails, using insect repellent, showering after being outdoors, and doing a full-body tick check. For more information on how to stay safe this season, visit:

www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/lyme/



HEAP Applications Now Open

As temperatures rise, HEAP is here to help you stay cool. Applications are now open for the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), which can cover the cost of fans or air conditioners for eligible New Yorkers. To see if you qualify, visit: [Home Energy Assistance Program \(HEAP\) | OTDA](#)



Enjoy Our New York State Parks

With warmer weather finally here, now is the perfect time to get outside and explore New York's incredible parks and historic sites. From scenic trails and waterfalls to beaches and boardwalks, there's no shortage of ways to enjoy the beauty of New York this season. To learn more or find events near you, visit: [Discover Your Next Adventure - NYS Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation](#)

Explore the beauty of *SPRING* across New York



Free Cancer Screening Available in New York

The New York State Cancer Services Program offers free breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer screening for eligible New Yorkers age 40-64 who are uninsured or underinsured. Services are available through local clinics, health centers, doctors' offices, and hospitals in every county and borough in New York State.

To find a program near you, call 1-866-442-CANCER (2262). The call is free, available 24/7, and language assistance is available.

Free Cancer Screenings For Eligible New Yorkers Ages 40–64

Breast, Cervical & Colorectal Cancer Screenings



BREAST



CERVICAL



COLORECTAL



New York State **Cancer Services** Program



Call **1-866-442-CANCER**

1-866-442-2262 • Free & Confidential • Available 24/7 • Language Assistance Provided