

NYS BLACK, PUERTO RICAN, HISPANIC
& ASIAN LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS



2024

PEOPLE'S POLICY
AGENDA

A Demand for Justice

Assemblywoman Michaelle C. Solages
Caucus Chair



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Message from the Caucus Chair
Assemblymember Michaelle C. Solages, 22nd Assembly District

With over seventy-eight lawmakers, the New York State Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic, and Asian Legislative Caucus remains committed to advocating for policies that advance the well-being of our communities. Our legislative policy agenda reflects our commitment to creating more opportunities for economic empowerment, stability, and advancement for all New Yorkers.

Some key areas of focus for the Caucus include promoting workforce development and job creation, addressing racial disparities in healthcare access and outcomes, keeping families whole, protecting children’s data, and advancing educational equity and access.

Through legislative advocacy and community engagement, the Caucus is making a concise demand for justice. Moreover, the Caucus will continue its efforts to address the systemic inequalities and injustices that negatively impact Black, Latino, and AAPI communities in New York State.

The Caucus also works to raise awareness about issues affecting communities of color and to promote greater understanding and collaboration among New Yorkers of all backgrounds. The participation of everyday New Yorkers is crucial for shaping the agenda of the Caucus and ensuring that the voices of all communities are heard. It is their advocacy and engagement that keep our democracy vibrant and responsive to the needs of the people. Overall, the Caucus is a vital voice for communities of color in the state and an important advocate for policies that promote equity, justice, and opportunity for all New Yorkers.





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to all the Caucus members, legislative staff, advocates, and everyday New Yorkers who have contributed to this publication. It is critical to recognize and appreciate the efforts of those who work towards creating positive change in our communities. The Caucus remains deeply committed to advancing policies that support the well-being of all New Yorkers, particularly those from historically marginalized communities. That is why it is crucial to have a public input process to ensure these legislative priorities are for the people, by the people.

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New York State Assembly Editorial Services
New York State Assembly Graphics Department
New York State Assembly Ways and Means Committee
New York State Assembly Program and Counsel

CAUCUS STAFF

Joshua Joseph, Executive Director
Vishnu Kalantri, Communication Assistant





THE PEOPLE'S POLICY AGENDA TOP HIGHLIGHTS

1. **A7636/S7297** - Establishes the homeownership protection program
2. **A4053/S2821** - Expands eligibility for temporary disability insurance and paid family leave benefits; makes conforming technical changes.
3. **A1980/S901** - Family Miranda Rights Act
4. **A3408/S3468** - Provides parity to durable medical equipment providers by requiring Medicaid managed care organizations to reimburse such providers at no less than one hundred percent of the medical assistance durable medical equipment and complex rehabilitation technology fee schedule for the same service or item.
5. **A8149/S7695** - Establishes the New York child data protection act.
6. **A9099/S8432 & A2653/S06781** - Commuter Vans Package
7. **A3020/S2237** - Coverage 4 All
8. **A2035/S2423** - Elder Parole & **A162/S307** - Fair & Timely Parole
9. **A1432A/S206A** - Jury of Our Peers
10. **A46/S1977** - Securing Wages Earned Against Theft (SWEAT) bill





THE PEOPLE'S HOUSING POLICY AGENDA

Through this agenda, the Caucus is focused on promoting homeownership, tenant protections, home safety, and senior housing. Unfortunately, Black, Latino, and Asian New Yorkers often encounter obstacles to accessing affordable housing due to factors such as discrimination, language barriers, and income inequality. This body is dedicated to ensuring that all New Yorkers have equal access to high-quality housing that meets their needs. Access to affordable, safe, and stable housing is critical for achieving educational success, ensuring public safety, and promoting community wellness.

Protecting Homeownership

A7636/S7297 - Establishes the homeownership protection program

A3353/S221 - Establishes the "tenant opportunity to purchase act"; prevents the displacement of lower-income tenants in New York and preserves affordable housing by providing an opportunity for tenants to own or remain renters in the properties in which they reside

A1808/S224 - Adds certain properties to the definition of a qualified historic home for the historic homeownership rehabilitation credit

A9744A/S9309 - Enacts the "house New Yorkers first act"

A4959/S3251 - Establishes the housing for an equitable reentry and opportunity (HERO) act

A1778/2964 - Fairness in Cooperative Homeownership Act

Addressing Housing Discrimination

A5459/S2919 - Allocates fines imposed on real estate appraisers to the anti-discrimination in housing fund

A1023/S1569 - This bill is aimed to disincentivize the predatory practice of house flipping, which significantly has a disproportionate impact on working class Latino and Black communities



A2685/S5789 - Requires cooperative housing corporations provide a prospective purchaser with a written statement of reasons when withholding consent to a purchase

A4959/S3251 - “Housing for Equitable Reentry and Opportunity” Act

Tenant Protections

A1493/ S2721 - Right to Counsel

A4781/S2783 - Prohibits landlords, lessors, sub-lessors and grantors from demanding brokers' fees from a tenant

A259/S180 - Establishes security deposit options for certain tenants

A5649/S4561 - Provides internet access to all individuals residing in temporary housing

A8920/S8175 - Prohibits the adjustment of maximum allowable rent where any modification, increase or improvement is made to accommodate the needs of a disabled tenant; defines disabled tenant

Supporting Senior Housing

A4716/S2080 - Establishes an affordable independent senior housing assistance program

A308/S268 - Prohibits the termination of tenancy in certain housing occupied by senior citizens and/or persons with disabilities

Enhancing Home & Fire Safety

A5415/S333 - Requires the inspection of non-fireproof buildings and compliance with the New York city housing maintenance code and the New York city construction codes

A4430/S2986 - Provides for state assistance to local governments for the enforcement of fire prevention and building codes

Additional Housing Bills

A6858/S6544 - An act to amend the general municipal law and the public authorities law, in relation to making housing a policy of the state of New York

A5865/S2506 - Relates to creating a new acquisition fund for community land trusts located in New York state





THE PEOPLE'S HEALTH POLICY AGENDA

Promoting health equity and addressing racial health disparities is essential for improving health outcomes for all New Yorkers. The Caucus will continue to prioritize policies that emphasize lead remediation and prevention measures, maternal health support, tackling high prescription drug prices, and ending medical debt. Additionally, mental health is a critical component of overall health and well-being. This agenda includes legislation to increase access to mental health services, especially for vulnerable populations.

Supporting Maternal & Infant Care

A2367A/S5517 - advisory council on maternal morbidity and mortality to undertake review of the cesarean births at hospitals in the state

A5465/S1876 - 14-member doula Medicaid reimbursement workgroup

A2794/S1877 - Requires the department of health to develop and maternal health care providers to distribute written information about episiotomy to maternity patients

Addressing Racism in Health Care

A109/S320 - Prohibits drug or alcohol testing and screening of pregnant or postpartum individuals and newborn

Enhancing Senior Care

A1124/S5644 - Relates to the transparency and quality of care of operators of adult care facilities

A6518/S996 - Provides for program eligibility for plans comparable to Medicare part D

Conditions and Diseases

A2661/S1890 - established the sickle cell treatment act

A895/S3518 - Enacts the manufacturer disclosure and transparency act

Combating the Opioid Crisis

A338/S399 - Overdose Prevention Centers



A5143/S2675 - Designates August thirty-first as "Overdose Awareness Day"

A8966/S7815 - Community Health and Safety Bills

Expanding Access to Care

A3020/ S2237 - Coverage4All

A4940/S2776 - Expands the healthcare services provided by telehealth

A4408/S1875 - Relates to reimbursement for early and periodic screening, diagnosis and treatment (Medicaid State Plan Amendment for expanded school-based health services)

A7546/S6956 - Requires the commissioner of health to develop a sustainability plan for the state university of New York downstate medical center

A1633A/S8843 - Requires public notice and public engagement when a general hospital seeks to close entirely or a unit that provides maternity, mental health or substance use care

A149A/S1475 - Provides for mandatory coverage of hearing aids by insurers and other organizations for children

A1696-A/S2465-A - Requires certain insurance policies and Medicaid to allow patients a one hundred twenty-day window for additional screening for breast cancer when the provider deems such screening is necessary

A3408/S3468 - Provides parity to durable medical equipment providers by requiring Medicaid managed care organizations to reimburse such providers at no less than one hundred percent of the medical assistance durable medical equipment and complex rehabilitation technology fee schedule for the same service or item.

Protecting Bodily Autonomy & Reproductive Choice

A361A/S348 - Reproductive Freedom and Equity Fund

A128/S931 - Prohibits virginity examinations



Protecting Children's Health

A4424/S213 - Predatory Marketing Prevention Act

A8952/ S7882 - Prohibits the sale of vape products that resemble school supplies

Mental Health

A4046/S1291 - Annual COLA for human services programs tied to inflation

A6563/S1865-A - Requires student identification cards to contain the new national suicide prevention lifeline number, 9-8-8, and the crisis text line, with instructions "Text GOT5 to 741741".

A316/S6042 - Requires the establishment of community housing waiting lists within the office of mental health service system





THE PEOPLE'S LABOR, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, & TRANSPORTATION POLICY AGENDA

A resilient and protected workforce is essential for building a thriving economy that allows New Yorkers to achieve success and prosperity. The Caucus is dedicated to advancing labor rights, securing equitable wages, ensuring safe and healthy working conditions, and expanding access to temporary disability insurance. This year, the Caucus will focus on fostering innovation, supporting small businesses, and creating diverse job opportunities to drive sustainable economic growth across the state.

Economic Development

A1931/S3605 - Relates to the requirements of the annual report from the division of minority and women's business development

A3861/S1419: Relates to requiring agencies to provide unsuccessful bidders that are certified minority and women-owned business enterprises with a written statement articulating the reasons for rejection.

A3352/S1754 - Public Banking Act

A9099/S8432 & A2653/S06781 - Commuter Vans Package

A7138/S795 - Consumer and Small business Protection Act

A753/S7183 - Requires not-for-profit corporations to have a board of directors which reflects the ethnic demographics of the communities that they serve to be able to receive state funds.

A895/S3518 -Enacts the manufacturer disclosure and transparency act

A2970/S5542 - Relates to New York state's support of international debt relief initiatives for certain developing countries.



Transportation

A3874/S1975 : Relates to cargo bicycles with electric assist--This legislation relates to environmental and traffic justice issues by reducing the amount of cars and trucks on our roads by reducing the amount of cars and trucks on our roads by utilizing cargo e-bikes to expand travel capabilities and delivery services.

A4637/S3304 - Creating a Bike Lane Safety Pilot Program in NYC

A6512/S1672 - relates to providing notice to school districts and nonpublic schools located in N.Y. city of certain construction projects

A5677/S6237 - Relates to the sale, lease, rental, and storage of e-bikes and electric mobility devices. This bill would help workers, particularly those who depend on hard labor and less pay like delivery drivers secure:

A4982/S5191 - Establishes Davina's driver accountability law which requires a uniform curriculum for accident prevention courses; repealer

Labor

A4053/S2821 - Expands eligibility for temporary disability insurance and paid family leave benefits; makes conforming technical changes.

A568/S1802 - Prohibits employers from using the federal electronic employment verification system to check the employment authorization status of an existing employee or an applicant who has not been offered employment and prohibits municipalities from requiring employers to use the federal electronic employment verification system.

A1710/S5567 - One Fair Wage

A378/S1800 - Establishes the nail salon minimum standards council act

A3321/S1604 - Provides for the regulation of all indoor and outdoor worksites with temperature protection standards and education, training and reporting requirements to ensure that employers provide safe conditions for their employees.

A46/S1977 - Securing Wages Earned Against Theft (SWEAT) bill.

A1893/S541 - Enacts the Empowering People in Rights Enforcement (EMPIRE) Worker Protection Act





THE PEOPLE'S FAMILY, HUMAN SERVICES & IMMIGRATION POLICY AGENDA

To build safe and resilient communities, it is crucial to prioritize the well-being of New York families. The Caucus recognizes the need to address issues related to the family court system and the separation of families of color. Moreover, the members will advocate for legislation that expands community intervention resources, support services, and evidence-based approaches to prevent violence and create secure environments for all families. Additionally, the body is dedicated to championing policies that protect the rights of immigrants, including access to education, legal representation, and protection from discrimination. By focusing on these priorities, the Caucus aims to create a strong safety net system that ensures the stability and wellbeing of all New Yorkers, especially vulnerable communities.

Keeping Families Whole

A1980/S901 - Family Miranda Rights Act

A3346A/S3170A - Requires the court to consider a child's health and safety when making a decision regarding child custody and visitation; directs the court to review certain information as it relates to allegations of child abuse, domestic violence and child safety

A2479/S902 - Requires a caller making a report of suspected child abuse or maltreatment to the central registry to leave their name and contact information; prohibits the office of children and family services from releasing information identifying a person who made such a report.

A9000/S8153 - Preserving Family Bonds Act

A9321/S8724 - The Safe Landings Act

Supporting Families

A.6214/S7663: The current SNAP minimum benefit of \$23 a month is inadequate for low-income New Yorkers. Amounting to less than a dollar a day, the SNAP minimum benefit fails to account for New York's true cost of living. This legislation would raise the minimum monthly benefit to \$100, benefitting nearly 110,000 households, enabling families to better afford groceries and stimulating local economies across the state.



A.4115/S.219 - Establishes a SNAP and cash assistance fraud victims compensation fund

A7134/S6592 - COVID-19 Baby Bonds

Community Violence Prevention

A3925/S0633 - Establishes the New York state violence in mass media research program

A6452/S396 - Expedites the distributions of funds for the supervision and treatment services for juveniles program

Uplifting Seniors

A8402/S713 - Establishes the aging in place task force, and provides for its powers and duties

A1539/S2143 - Relates to the creation of a self-sufficiency standard study regarding how much income is needed for a family of a given composition in a given geographic location to adequately meet its basic needs without public or private assistance

A9369/S8760 - Relates to the automatic identification of elderly pharmaceutical insurance coverage program enrollees who are eligible for HEAP

A895/S3518 - Enacts the manufacturer disclosure and transparency act



Support New Americans

A5686/S987 - Prohibits and regulates the discovery and disclosure of immigration status; repealer (New York for All)

A0170/S0999 - would guarantee that “no one must defend themselves against a trained-government lawyer alone to protect themselves and their families from deportation.

A4821/S3192 - Unemployment Bridge Program

A4354/S306 - Dignity Not Detention would end the practice in NYS of local jails making contracts with ICE for the jailing of immigrants for ICE. A high percentage of immigrant detainees in NYS are Latino

A636/S2061 - Prohibits the disclosure of immigration status for victims of domestic violence

A1134/S1822 - Establishes enhanced penalties for coercive threats to expose immigration status of witnesses and domestic violence victims

A8837/S8119 - Alex R. Jimenez NY Military Immigrant Family Legacy Program

A9057/S7826 - Require NYCID in State Chartered Banks: Amend the banking law, in relation to mandating acceptance of the New York city identity card as a primary form of identification at state-chartered banks, savings banks, savings and loan associations, and credit unions

A6219/S6584 - Requires separate collection categories for White, Middle Eastern, and North African groups in NYS





THE PEOPLE'S ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE & ENERGY POLICY AGENDA

The Caucus prioritizes enhancing environmental health in marginalized communities by tackling toxic exposures, minimizing pollution sources, and promoting a fair shift away from fossil fuels. Furthermore, the Caucus champions policies that guarantee Black, Latino, and AAPI New Yorkers access to essential resources for a healthy life, such as safe and nutritious food and clean drinking water. By addressing these vital needs, the Caucus strives to create a more equitable and sustainable environment for all state residents.

Climate Action

A4056/S0212 - Creates climate negligence for dangers to safety and health caused by certain fossil fuel related activity

A4592/S2016 - NY HEAT Act, to stop subsidies for fracked gas hookups

A1718/S2127- Clean Deliveries Act, establishes an indirect source review for certain warehouse operations; requires the department of environmental conservation to conduct a study regarding zero emissions zones.

A9170/S8535 - Establishes the green affordable pre-electrification program to assist owners and tenants in residential properties in curing structural and building code defects which render the properties ineligible for climate change adaptation and resiliency project grants.

A4866/S2935 - requires study to phase out oldest and most polluting power plants with emphasis on prioritizing pollution in environmental justice communities

Addressing PFAS in the Environment

A5322/S4246 - Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act



Environmental Justice

A6584/S2510 - Requires applicants for major projects located near a disadvantaged community to submit an enhanced public participation plan.

A5104/S238 - Establishes the public water justice act

A6969/S4265 - Provides for the regulation of ingredients in personal care products and cosmetics

A4579/S2676 - Relates to indoor air quality in schools

A09267/S6299A - Addendum to NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's Community Air Monitoring Study

A9572/S9105 - Relates to labeling requirements for gas stoves

A4820/ S2353 - Lead Paint Right to Know

Energy & Utilities

A8611/S8372 - Relates to utility intervenor reimbursement

A4895/S1804 - Requires gas and electric corporations to provide sixty days' notice to customers whenever there is a service rate or charge increase

A9174/S8693 - Requires investor-owned energy utilities to collect and publish data on disadvantaged communities in certain service areas

A79/S6702 - Requires the results of any outage management system stress test conducted in the state by a utility company to be posted online

A5329/S1316 - Relates to requiring the establishment of utility customer arrears reporting; requires utilities to report to the public service commission on customers who are in arrears.





THE PEOPLE'S EDUCATION POLICY AGENDA

The policies detailed below strive to create equal opportunities for academic success, support a teaching workforce that mirrors the diversity of the student population, and actively involve parents in the educational system to boost student performance. The Caucus understands the importance of protecting student rights and fostering cultural competency, recognizing the need to cultivate an inclusive and nurturing educational environment that benefits all learners. New York State has both the potential and the duty to provide a more equitable and effective educational experience for every student.

Promoting Student Success & Equity

A5691/S1040 - School Solutions Not Suspensions Act

A1645/S2304 - Dyslexia screening act

A67/S4551- Enacts the "education funding census update act"

A6579/S5963 - AAPI history curriculum bill

A4917/S4598 - Enacts the "school anti-violence education act"; creates a school anti-violence education program; establishes a school anti-violence education fund.

A1166/S900 - Prohibits the use of aversive conditioning and other certain punishments

A1939/S5334 - Allocates the Amistad commission in the Department of Education

A4502/S1395 - Provides the Board of Regents with final approval authority over all proposed and renewed charter schools

A4514/S2173 - Requires the state comptroller and the comptroller of the city of New York to coordinate the scheduling and performance of audits of charter schools in the city of New York

A8262/S7684 - Establishes an Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander (AANHPI) leadership institute within the state university of New York



Empowering Community & Parent Participation

A1799/S2967 - Establishes the citywide leadership team

A1203/S2949 - Establishes representative requirements for district leadership teams and school leadership teams

A1793/S1689 - Requires district leadership teams to operate under open meetings law requirements

Teacher Diversity

A4012/S4308 - Requires school districts to have diversity officers

A4272/S1192 - Establishes the underrepresented teachers of tomorrow teacher recruitment and retention program to attract and retain underrepresented certified teachers in schools which have an underrepresentation of underrepresented certified teachers;

Student Mental Health Support

A3903/S5103 - Includes policies and procedures for responding to students having mental health crises in a manner that does not include contacting law enforcement unless implied or direct threats of violence or other criminal activity is involved in school safety plans

A902/S1577 - Requires the department of education to report information regarding counselors, social workers and psychologists in schools and to implement a plan to increase the school counselor, school social worker and school psychologist to student ratio to nationally accepted standards and provide funding for such

A9001/S2107 - Amend the education law, in relation to requiring training for teachers and administrators in the area of childhood trauma

Language Access & Cultural Competency

A456/S1516 - Establishes the education equity act which provides language assistance to parents/guardians who have children enrolled in public school and who do not speak English.

A7235/ S3381 - Language Access Expansion Act



High Education Priorities

A9649/S7859 - Student Financial Award Letter Transparency

A8403/S9094 - Expansion of in-state tuition eligibility

A1568/S4511 - HESC/DALF Expansion for Public Interest Attorneys

A7545/S1863 - An act to amend the Education Law, as it relates to higher education funding opportunities for foster youth

A4893/S3250 - Requires public agencies to establish preliminary license application procedures to determine whether an applicant for a license would be ineligible for such license based on criminal history





THE PEOPLE'S CIVIL RIGHTS & CRIMINAL JUSTICE **POLICY AGENDA**

Advancing civil rights and criminal justice reform with a focus on fairness and equality is essential. Key initiatives include sentencing reform, ensuring fair and just punishments, and the "Jury of Our Peers" policy, promoting diverse and representative juries. Additionally, protecting the data of our children is a crucial priority to safeguard their privacy and rights. The Caucus is dedicated to these legislative efforts, striving to create a New York society that upholds civil rights, promotes justice, and treats everyone with dignity and respect under the law.

Reducing Recidivism

A3412/S225A - Provides that no incarcerated individual in any state or local prison, penitentiary, jail or reformatory shall be compelled or induced to provide labor against his or her will.

A710/ S182 - EndQINY

A1263/S1976 - Treatment Not Jail

A507/S167 - significantly limit citizen's arrest (Amaud Aubrey inspired legislation)

A641/S2192 - Enacts the "criminal forfeiture process act

Parole Justice

A162/S307 - Fair & Timely Parole

A2035/S2423 - Elder Parole



Youth Justice

A4432/S4915 - Relates to the "juvenile offender second chance act" which establishes the ability for a person to be adjudicated to be a youthful offender and receive all provisions and benefits of being a youthful offender.

A3536A/S2718 - Relates to granting certain individuals youthful offender status or young adult offender status; repealer

Oversight & Support for Incarcerated Individuals

A7854-B/S 7607 – Public Notice for Deaths In Custody at State Prisons and Local Jails

A7261/S600 – Oversight of Juvenile Detention Facilities - Protecting the rights and welfare of young people in custody is paramount. This bill establishes crucial civilian oversight of juvenile detention facilities, ensuring appropriate care and support for these vulnerable youth

A908/S1233 - Increases access to substance abuse programming for incarcerated individuals whose first language is not English

A2539/S5087 - Requires certain justices and judges to visit the correctional facility with the highest population in the county in which such justice or judge was elected or appointed

A1645/S2304 - Requires a reading proficiency level assessment and dyslexia screening for certain incarcerated individuals

A6487/S181 - Expands who may visit local correctional facilities to include accompanying staff of legislative members and members of the department of corrections and community supervision requested by a legislative member

Safeguarding Civil Rights

A5891/S2800 - that will codify young New Yorkers' right to counsel before a police interrogation

A709/S2860 - Enacts the "gender identity respect, dignity and safety act"

A3306/S217 - Reverse Location and Keyword Search Prohibition Act (Geofence Warrant Ban)

A6489/S312 – CANY Oversight and Data Access Bill



A127/S1738 - Rap on Trial

A1432A/S206A - Jury of Our Peers

A4183/S313 - End Predatory Court Fees Act

A6830/S5797 - Provides that the results of urine tests conducted pursuant to a judicial diversion program shall be private and confidential

A02849/S7427 - Prohibits the use of chemical agents by police officers against minors under the age of eighteen.

A2442/S2322 - Requires the disclosure of certain information when an agency responds to a request for law enforcement disciplinary records, including information a victim alleges regarding sexual misconduct

A505/S449 - Relates to detaining persons for longer than twenty-four hours

A6650/S4313 - Requires that each police officer and peace officer involved in the execution of a search warrant wear a functioning and unobstructed body camera that shall be active prior to and throughout the execution of the search and during any related action following the execution of the search warrant

Sentencing Reform

A2036B/S6471 - Enacts the "Marvin Mayfield act", eliminating mandatory minimum sentences.

A1128/S774 - Establishes the "earned time act" providing for time allowances against the term or maximum term of sentences imposed by the court to be credited on an annual pro rata basis.

A531/S321 - Authorizes certain persons confined in institutions operated by the department of corrections and community supervision to apply for a sentence reduction

Data Protection

A8159/S7695 - Establishes the New York child data protection act.

A8148/S7694 - Establishes the Stop Addictive Feeds Exploitation (SAFE) for Kids act

