



**August 4, 2023**

Greetings --

As many of you know, for the past six years I have fought to improve literacy instruction and teacher training in our state. This week the New York Times [published an article highlighting my literacy advocacy and related legislation](#). The article discusses how New York State is lagging behind almost all other states in the nation in implementing evidence-based reading curricula and teacher training.

The article spotlights two families and their struggle to get their children sound reading instruction in our public schools. This policy failure is due in large part to New York State's unwillingness to implement curriculum or teacher training standards statewide and its devotion to the policy of 'local control' - a policy that grants considerable latitude in regards to curriculum to local districts.

This has resulted in many districts adopting literacy curricula and teaching methods based on "three cuing" and what is known as a "whole language" approach that are not rooted in sound pedagogy. To be clear - these methods have little to no evidence showing that they can effectively teach children to read but are nevertheless used by the vast majority of our schools. This is why more than seventy percent of fourth graders statewide read below grade level and over forty percent struggle to read. These numbers are even higher in disadvantaged communities. The disregard for the welfare of children, parents, teachers and administrators is alarming. So many teachers, administrators and parents know that change is needed but they need the State to provide expertise, guidance and resources.

As I said in the New York Times, *"If we had a district that was teaching that the Holocaust or slavery didn't exist, would we say 'local control'?...What is the point of having a state Education Department if it won't step in when there's a five-alarm fire?"*

It is past time that the State's poor handling of the literacy crisis is getting the attention it needs, because there are solutions. Below are bills that I have introduced that will set us on a different course:

- **A.133 "The Dyslexia Task Force Act"** will create a task force to research and develop educational supports for those with dyslexia and related disorders
- **A.2898 "The Dyslexia Diagnosis Access Act"** will require private health insurance companies to pay for neuropsychological exams to diagnose dyslexia
- **A.7101 "The New York Individuals with Dyslexia Education Act"** will create standards for dyslexia screening and interventions for K-5 students

- **A.2897 “The Right to Read Act”** will require the State Education Department to provide guidance to schools to establish literacy curricula based on best practices for literacy education

The Dyslexia Task Force Act has been passed by the Legislature and awaits a signature from the Governor. You can voice your support by calling Governor Hochul's office at (518) 474-8390 and ask that she sign the bill into law. For my other literacy related legislation, you can call your State Assemblymember and your State Senator and express your support. If you are in my district, of course I fully support my own legislation, but would still be happy to hear from you. [You can find your elected official and their contact information here.](#)

### **MTA MetroCard Van**

On Monday the popular MTA MetroCard Van was stationed in front of my district office. We had an excellent turnout, with 179 people helped and \$1294.95 in money transferred from expired MetroCards to new MetroCards. We are scheduling another van within the next few months, and will provide details as we move closer to the date.



## **Mammogram Bus**

Free mammograms and clinical breast exams will be available at the Mammogram Bus sponsored by the American-Italian Cancer Foundation in front of my District office on August 15th from 9am to 4:30am. See full details on the flyer below. Call 1-877-628-9090 to reserve your spot right away.

American-Italian  
**CANCER FOUNDATION**

[www.americanitaliancancer.org](http://www.americanitaliancancer.org)

**EARLY DETECTION OF BREAST CANCER SAVES LIVES!**



The *Mammogram Bus* will be here Tuesday, August 15<sup>th</sup>!

Schedule a **No-cost Mammogram** and **Clinical Breast Exam**

Eligibility:

- Woman age 40 - 79
- Currently living in New York City
- No Mammogram in the past 12 months

**Our services are at no-cost.**

No co-pays required and deductibles are waived. Uninsured patients also welcomed.

**Hosted by:**

**Assemblymember Robert Carroll**



416 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11215

Tuesday, August 15, 2023

9:00am - 4:30pm

**For an Appointment, Call:**

**1-877-628-9090**

Medical Services provided by Multi-Diagnostic Services



Funded by a grant from

NYC Council, NYC DOHMH, NYS Senate, Pfizer, and individual patrons.

Additional funding provided by the generous support of the NBCF,

If you have any concerns about these or any other legislative or community matter please email me at [carrollr@nyassembly.gov](mailto:carrollr@nyassembly.gov) or call (718) 788-7221.

-Bobby

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