



*Assemblyman*  
**Andrew Hevesi**  
*Legislative Update – Assembly District 28*



Dear Neighbor,

It is an honor and privilege to serve as your representative in the New York State Legislature. As the 2020 legislative session begins, I wanted to share with you 5 new laws that were written by my office and signed into law in 2019. I am extremely proud of these pieces of legislation, each of which improves the lives of vulnerable New Yorkers. I am very grateful to my colleagues who fought alongside me to pass each bill, the various advocate organizations who brought these issues to the forefront, and the staff involved in creating these laws. I look forward to continuing to build on these achievements in the 2020 session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Hevesi'.

Andrew Hevesi  
Member of the Assembly



**Serving the Communities of Forest Hills / Rego Park / Kew Gardens /  
Richmond Hill / Ridgewood / Middle Village / Glendale**





### **A.4268/S.2659: Amends the social services law, in relation to mandating training of direct care workers in Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)**

This law requires that direct-care domestic violence workers be trained in Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) so they can provide more comprehensive trauma-informed services to their clients. The passage of this law marked the first time that “ACEs” as a term and concept has been codified into New York State law – a tremendous step in bringing childhood trauma to the forefront of policy making. Senator Diane Savino championed the senate bill. Prevent Child Abuse New York was critical in bringing this issue to the forefront and advocating for this legislation.

Research shows that exposure to ACEs and the toxic stress it produces damages the structure and function of a child’s developing brain. Specifically, elevated levels of cortisol produce changes in the connectivity within the prefrontal cortex.

The results for children can include learning difficulties, behavioral problems, difficulty regulating emotions,

and increased and potentially debilitating physical and mental health issues. When left unaddressed, exposure to trauma can also have both short and long-term implications on a child’s health, including headaches, fatigue, irritability, emotional outbursts, over and under eating, cardiovascular disease, asthma, obesity, cancer, heart disease, and autoimmune diseases.

### **A.2766/S.4990: Amends the social services law, in relation to standards and training for child day care**

This law mandates that childcare workers be trained to recognize Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and allow workers to better understand and assist the children they see on a daily basis. This law will ensure that children who have experienced ACEs will not have their lives irrevocably altered by that trauma.

Prevent Child Abuse New York was instrumental in the development and passage of this legislation. Without their expertise and frontline work, the enactment of this law would not have been possible. State Senator Alessandra Biaggi championed this initiative in the Senate.

## **A.7817/S.5402: Amends the social services law, in relation to exempting certain funds in a NY ABLE savings account in the calculation of household benefits under public assistance programs**

This law exempts contributions to New York Achieving a Better Life Experience (NYABLE) savings accounts from public assistance evaluations, which will provide disabled New Yorkers with an opportunity to build savings without being penalized. The NYABLE Program was enacted in 2015 to assist individuals and families to save funds to support the health, independence, and quality of life of individuals with disabilities. These accounts help individuals save and pay for expenses and services that are not necessarily covered by Medicaid or disability benefits. Funds withdrawn or transferred from NYABLE accounts are for the sole use of the beneficiary for qualified expenses only. Exempting the funds in NYABLE accounts when calculating public assistance benefits will allow disabled New Yorkers to accrue savings without incurring unnecessary financial hardship. Senator Roxanne Persaud was critical in getting this legislation passed as she carried the Senate bill.

## **A.4267/S.S4281: Amends the real property law, in relation to the termination of a residential lease by a victim of domestic violence; and to repeal certain provisions of such law relating thereto**

This law enables survivors of domestic violence to terminate leases in unsafe residences – helping survivors ensure their immediate well-being without having to incur undue financial burdens. Specifically, this law:

1. Changes the lease termination procedure by eliminating the requirement that a survivor obtain a Court Order of Protection, which will help avoid complications when a survivor is seeking to vacate an unsafe residence
2. Eliminates a provision requiring that a survivor notify a co-tenant who is their abuser prior to securing the lease termination
3. Expands the categories of documentation required to corroborate the tenant's status as a Domestic Violence Survivor to include police reports, medical reports, and certifications from domestic violence service providers, as well as Orders of Protection
4. Shortens the time period between initiation of the process and the termination date
5. Eliminates the requirement that the tenant seeking to terminate a lease be current on rental payments
6. Creates a new subsection detailing how rent and any security deposit will be handled
7. Establishes a defense to a subsequent legal action for rental arrears brought by the landlord based on compliance with the notice and required documentation
8. Explicitly preserves a landlords right to seek rental arrears owed prior to the termination date
9. Creates a new subsection to outline and clarify the treatment of other tenants and occupants upon termination
10. Creates a new subsection that prohibits a lessor or owner from disclosing the terminating tenants whereabouts and/or utilization of this statute to any person or agency
11. Creates a new subsection which establishes damages for violation of this statute

With the partnership of Senator Alessandra Biaggi in the Senate, this bill passed both houses unanimously and was subsequently signed into law. Domestic violence is the number one driver of homelessness in New York City, this legislation will help change that.







**A.4258/S.4339: Amends the social services law, in relation to providing rent subsidies to individuals living with roommates**

This law allows youth aging out of foster care to receive a rent subsidy while living with a roommate. This will drastically increase their housing options upon exiting foster care and in turn, help prevent young people from falling into homelessness. This would not have been possible without the leadership of State Senator Julia Salazar and the advocacy of COFCCA, Citizens' Committee for Children, Children's Aid NYC, the Schuyler Center, and many others.

New York State Assembly, Albany, NY 12248



*Assemblyman*  
**Andrew HEVESI**

*Legislative Update*

*Winter 2020*

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