



Assemblyman **Andrew Hevesi**

Fall 2021 Update – Assembly District 28

Dear Neighbor,

It is an honor and privilege to serve as your representative in the New York State Legislature. As Summer 2021 and our state's pandemic recovery continue, I wanted to update you on the progress and victories we made during this year's legislative session. This update reflects the tireless efforts of the staff in my district and Albany offices as they continue to work to assist our neighbors, as well as lead numerous efforts to assist the most vulnerable New Yorkers throughout our state. I am proud to work with them. We look forward to working with you and for you to rebuild our communities, our state and our country together.

Sincerely,

Andrew Hevesi
Member of the Assembly



Assemblyman Hevesi Authors the Law Closing the School to Prison Pipeline for 7-12 year olds

Assemblyman Hevesi championed Assembly bill A.4982, which raises the lower age of juvenile delinquency, from seven years old to twelve years old, and creates differential response programs and services for children under the age of twelve who would have otherwise been brought within the jurisdiction of family court and the juvenile justice system.

The American Academy of Pediatrics has found that 90% of justice-involved youth have experienced at least one form of childhood trauma, and according to the National Child Traumatic Stress Network the average justice-involved youth will have experienced 5 different forms of childhood trauma, 62% of whom having experienced that trauma within the first 5 years of life. These are our little

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

Assemblyman Hevesi's Passes Two Pieces of Legislation to Assist Survivors of Human Trafficking

Assemblyman Hevesi's legislation which extends the statute of limitations to 15 years for a survivor of human trafficking to bring a civil court action against the perpetrator or anyone who knowingly profited from these despicable crimes passed both the Senate and Assembly this year.

This new bill adds 5 years to the current 10-year statute of limitations for those trafficked as adults and goes even further for individuals that were trafficked as minors and persons with disabilities.

Currently these survivors have only 3 years from the time they reach the age of majority at 18 or are legally no longer incapacitated to bring a civil cause of action. This extension adds an additional 12 years to bring civil action for human trafficking survivors who were trafficked as minors or those with disabilities.

Scientific evidence and lived experience have proven that it can take time, years, even decades for survivors to reconcile the trauma of sexual violence and the exploitation of trafficking and decide to come forward. Many never do, but survivors who choose to come forward should not be prohibited from bringing a cause of action against these perpetrators.

Not only does this legislation extend the statute of limitations, it also expands the type of compensation survivors may be entitled to from just the recovery of damages and reasonable legal fees to include actual, compensatory and punitive damages, injunctive relief, or any combination thereof.

Nothing can undo or make right the experience of survivors of human trafficking. However, this legislation will allow for some form of remuneration and pursuit of justice should survivors seek it.

A separate bill, also authored by Assemblyman Hevesi, would require law enforcement entities to inform those who have self-identified as, or they have reason to believe may be, subject to human trafficking, on the availability of supports including social and legal services.

Currently both pieces of legislation await the Governor's signature.

Assemblyman Hevesi Partners with Local Leaders for Graffiti Clean-Ups

Over the past year, there has been an unfortunate increase of graffiti within the district, much of which has been placed on our local, small businesses. Assemblyman Hevesi's office has begun working with various community partners including the 112th Precinct and individual volunteers to organize clean-ups throughout our neighborhood to paint over this graffiti. Special thanks to the various local businesses and the NYPD for their coordination and assistance in cleaning up our neighborhoods. If you own a business that has been tagged by graffiti and would like it removed, free of charge, please contact our office at 718-263-5595.



Assemblyman Hevesi Passes Legislation Advancing Disability Rights

As part of the legislature's Disability Advocacy Day, Assemblyman Hevesi's bill to ensure that proper and substantial weight be given to a client's treating physician when determining employability for public assistance, passed in both the Senate and Assembly. Too often the opinion of an agency doctor, who spends only minutes examining someone, is given credence over the findings of the person's treating physician, who may have been treating them for years. This results in improper employability determinations for people with disabilities that in turn lead to sanctions and loss of benefits, further marginalizing and discriminating against those with disabilities. This legislation awaits the Governor's signature.

Assemblyman Hevesi Helps Constituents Navigate Unemployment Hurdles

The COVID-19 pandemic brought one of the worst economic crises in state history along with it. One month into the initial lockdown in April of 2020, the state's unemployment rate skyrocketed to 15.5%, leaving millions of New Yorkers vulnerable during one of the most uncertain time periods in history.

Assemblyman Hevesi negotiated to ensure the state provided funds for essential assistance, including expanded Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits, childcare assistance, nutritional support, and rent assistance, amongst numerous other programs, and in addition Assemblyman Hevesi and his staff worked directly with government agencies to ensure these supports were fully and effectively distributed. Since March 2020, Assemblyman Hevesi and his staff have helped more than 250 constituents navigate hurdles in receiving UI, and helped hundreds more receive essential support through other programs.

If you, or someone you know, are in need of support, please contact the Assemblyman at (718) 263-5595 or email Hevesia@nyassembly.gov.

New York State Assembly, Albany, NY 12248



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Update

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