

July 2024



News from

Assemblyman

Andrew Hevesi



Dear Neighbor,

With the end of the 2024 legislative session, I wanted to take the time to provide some updates on legislative and budget victories and local happenings from my office. Wishing everyone a safe, healthy, and fun Summer!

Sincerely,

A white handwritten signature of Andy Hevesi on a dark blue background.

Andy Hevesi

28th Assembly District

Assemblyman Hevesi Helps Deliver \$25 Million in Increased Nonpublic School Safety Equipment (NPSE) Grant Funding

Assemblyman Hevesi led a bipartisan coalition of over 60 legislators calling for increased funding for NPSE grants. These grants are used for increased security measures at religious and private schools, such as additional security guards and protective infrastructure. Prior to this year's budget, these grants were only funded at \$45 million, amounting to a little over \$100 per pupil per year. Now with this increase, the funding is \$70 million which will be used to protect the safety and well-being of our Jewish, Muslim, Catholic, and other students.

Assemblyman Hevesi Leads a Coalition to Create a Supplemental \$350 Million Empire State Child Tax Credit

This year's state budget includes a \$350 million expansion of the Empire State Child Tax Credit. According to the New York State Academy of Pediatrics, one in five children across our state live in a family struggling to meet basic needs. A higher percentage of children live in poverty in New York State than in 34 other states.

This investment will put money directly into the pockets of tens of thousands of New York's families for food, rent, clothing, and utilities.

Hevesi Helps Secure New Funding for Chronically Underfunded Programs

- \$1 million increase for **Infant Toddler Mental Health Consultants** statewide to help address the current behavioral health funding crisis for New York's children.
- \$2.6 million increase for **Settlement Houses**, increasing the total funds to \$4 million. Settlement Houses are hubs of community support and services including employment programs, food pantries, children's and after-school programs, case management, language and literacy education, legal counseling, eviction prevention, arts programming, senior services, and health and home care. This is the first increase for settlement house funding in two decades.
- \$2 million for support and services for **runaway and homeless youth**. New York State has the second highest population of youth and young adults experiencing homelessness in the country. This accounts for over 17% of the total national population of unaccompanied homeless youth.

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

12 Bills Sponsored by Assemblyman Hevesi Pass Both Houses of the Legislature

The following bills, drafted by Assemblyman Hevesi, currently await the Governor's signature to become law.

- **A.2487:** Relates to allowing severely disabled individuals to renew parking permits without providing an updated certification or additional medical documents (See page 4)
- **A.2583:** Authorizes certain shelters to be reimbursed for any payment differential for housing a single individual in a room intended for double occupancy
- **A.3580:** Relates to the subsidies that may be provided to a parent who adopts a disabled or hard-to-place child
- **A.7341:** Allowing for child protective services workers to complete certain required training through distance learning methods
- **A.8322:** Relates to the establishment, powers, and duties of the Council on Children and Families
- **A.8486:** Extends time frame to two years to receive updated mandated reporter training
- **A.8487:** Relates to the sealing and expungement of records in persons in need of supervision cases in family court
- **A.8846:** Requires maintained records for certain children to include whether they have a developmental disability; requires a study of the number of children in foster care who have a developmental disability
- **A.8878:** Relates to child care assistance under the child care block grant
- **A.9321:** Relates to enacting the safe landings for youth leaving foster care act or safe landings act (See page 3)
- **A.10198:** Gives family court authorization to provide name changes
- **A.10463:** Extends the effectiveness of certain provisions relating to reporting data on child welfare preventive services

Hevesi Passes Safe Shelter Act for Domestic Violence Survivors

Known as the SAFE (Securing Access to Fair and Equal) Shelter Act, this legislation will allow domestic violence shelter providers to house single adults in rooms intended for double occupancy, when necessary.

The emergency domestic violence shelter system in New York State was configured for families. Under current law, domestic violence shelter providers are reimbursed on a per person per night basis, which places providers in a financial predicament when a single adult is seeking shelter and the only space available is designed for a family.

This "heads in beds" reimbursement system means that a shelter provider that places a single survivor without children in a unit with two or more beds will lose significant revenue for the beds that are not used for the length of time the single survivor occupies that room. By removing the financial barrier for domestic violence shelter providers, more single adult victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse and trafficking will have access to emergency shelter beds. This bill passed both the Senate and Assembly and currently awaits the Governor's signature to become law.

Hevesi Passes Bill Expanding Child Care Subsidy Eligibility

Assemblyman Hevesi's bill, A.4986, passed each house of the legislature this year. This bill will expand eligibility for child care assistance to tens of thousands of New York families. Current law allows families to receive child care assistance only when the parents work traditional 9 am-5 pm hours. A.4986 would allow parents working in the service industry, gig economy, those who have part-time employment, students, and others to qualify for childcare assistance.

This legislation would eliminate barriers to assistance, and most importantly, enable children to receive developmentally appropriate full-time care. The bill awaits Governor Hochul's signature.

Hevesi Passes Bill to Ensure Adoption Assistance Reaches Intended Recipients

A.3580 ensures that subsidies in "broken adoptions" (when intended adoptive parents are no longer taking care of the child) do not continue to be paid to those parents. Presently, the adoption subsidy is inappropriately linked to the parent rather than the child. This legislation will ensure that disabled and hard-to-place children who are adopted out of foster care continue to receive the benefit of the adoption subsidy if the adoptive relationship is disrupted.

This bill will also provide significant financial savings to the state and its localities by reducing duplicative payments. If the bill is enacted, the State will no longer pay both the monthly adoption subsidy and foster care maintenance payments for children who return to foster care. Nor will the state pay the adoption subsidy and also the cost of shelter for homeless adopted youth. A.3580 gives State and local officials the ability to ensure that an adoptive parent who no longer cares for or supports their adopted child does not continue to receive the benefits of the adoption subsidy funding. This bill passed both the Senate and Assembly and awaits the Governor's signature.

Hevesi Passes Safe Landings Act to Support Former Foster Care Youth

The Safe Landings Act authorizes the Family Court to enforce court orders on behalf of foster care youth after these young people turn 21 years old.

Each year, over 960 young adults in New York State are venturing out on their own for the first time after spending years in foster care without having the advantages of family support and stability.

Many of these youth leave foster care unprepared for life on their own because the foster care agencies or the local departments of social services did not provide the services that a family court ordered them to provide. The result is many of these young people should have had assistance securing housing, employment, and education; obtaining health insurance; applying for benefits; and obtaining a driver's license, but did not receive that assistance.

Under current law, New York State Family Court loses jurisdiction when these young people turn 21 years old. Therefore, there is no mechanism to enforce service delivery that has been required by prior valid family court orders. A.9321 gives family court the jurisdiction it needs to enforce its own orders after foster care youth turn 21 years old.

This bill passed both the Senate and Assembly and awaits the Governor's signature.



Assemblyman Hevesi debates on the Assembly floor this year, prior to the passing of his bill A.3580.

Local Happenings

Assemblyman Hevesi Attends Ribbon-Cutting for Newly Renovated Queens Community House

After years of renovations, the Queens Community House officially reopened its upgraded facility at 108-25 62nd Drive. Assemblyman Hevesi helped allocate over \$1 million in capital funds for this project, as did several other local elected officials. These upgrades include a new roof, an elevator, an updated HVAC system, and a modernized kitchen and plumbing. The necessary repairs and beautification of this community fixture will allow the wonderful work of QCH to continue and expand. QCH has graciously served our neighbors since 1976.



Assemblyman Hevesi Sponsors Memorial Day Essay Contest

Assemblyman Hevesi attended the American Legion Continental Post #1424 and Forest Hills Kiwanis Club's annual Memorial Day Parade held on May 26, 2024. All elementary schools within Assembly District 28 were invited to participate in Assemblyman Hevesi's Memorial Day Essay Contest, with the winning essay read aloud at the parade ceremony. Two fifth grade students from PS 174 won the essay contest on the importance of Memorial Day.



Continued Cleanups Across the 28th District!

Assemblyman Hevesi's community cleanup series continues into 2024! The Assemblyman also joined a partnership – with Metro Village of Forest Hills, Queens Community Board 6, Council Member Lynn Schulman, Senator Joe Addabbo, the Forest Hills Green Team, Forest Hills Stadium, and Home Depot – to organize regular cleanups along Metropolitan Avenue in Forest Hills. Additional events have taken place in Rego Park and Middle Village, with more clean ups planned for each neighborhood of the 28th Assembly District.

Over 100 volunteers have participated in this year's series so far, with more than 30 students having received service credit hours. Contact hevesia@nyassembly.gov or (718) 263-5595 for information and to get involved!

Hevesi Passes Bill Eliminating Unnecessary Requirements for Disability Parking Permits

A.2487-A came into existence after Assemblyman Hevesi's Chief of Staff, Alexa Arcchi, identified that several of our neighbors have experienced overly cumbersome requirements when re-applying for disability parking permits.

Arcchi spearheaded the drafting and development of this legislation which permits severely and permanently disabled New Yorkers to renew their parking permits without providing recently updated certifications, additional medical documents, or other burdensome requirements.

Senator Toby Ann Stavisky picked up the companion bill and A.2487 was brought to a floor vote in 2024, passing both the State Senate and Assembly with unanimous approval.

The bill awaits Governor Hochul's signature and remains a point of pride for Assemblyman Hevesi's office.

New York State Assembly, Albany, NY 12248

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News From
Assemblyman
**Andrew
HEVESI**

July 2024

A large graphic featuring a portrait of Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi on the left, set against a background of the New York State Capitol building. The text "Assemblyman Andrew HEVESI" is prominently displayed in the center. To the right is the official seal of the New York State Assembly. Below the name, contact information for both District and Albany offices is provided.

**Assemblyman
Andrew
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