



Greetings---

With only three scheduled session days to go before the end of the legislative session, I hope you join me in a final push to get the Senate to act on critical legislation related to Women’s Health, Election Reforms, and universal single-payer health care in New York State. If any of these bills are important to you, please take a few minutes early next week to call the Governor at (518) 474- 8390, Senator John Flanagan at (631) 361-2154 and Senator Jeff Klein at (718) 822-2049 to urge them to bring these critical pieces of legislation to the floor for an up or down vote.

Here is some of what has been going on over the past week:

Easy Elections Rally and Obstacle Course

This week in Albany, hundreds of New Yorkers descended on the Capital to demand #easyelections in New York State. Groups like Common Cause New York, Citizen Action of New York, Citizens Union, NYPAN, the Brooklyn Voters Alliance, and the Youth Progressive Policy Group are helping to lead the effort to make our voting laws more fair and democratic.



New York State needs early voting, electronic poll books, instant registration, no fault absentee voting and more to improve out ballot access and campaign finance laws. I am proud to fight alongside these wonderful advocates and had a great time speaking at the rally and urge you to continue to call the Governor, Senate Leader John Flanagan and Senate IDC Leader Jeff Klein to urge them to bring these bills to the floor for and up or down vote in the Senate.

Assembly Passes Bill to Close LLC Loophole

This week, the Assembly again passed a bill, which I co-sponsored, to close the LLC loop hole and hold Limited Liability Corporations to the same accountability provisions and campaign contribution limits as corporations. With the enactment of this bill, no longer will individuals or entities be able to make repeated, unchecked and virtually unlimited, campaign contributions to a candidate through multiple LLCs at dollar amounts that exceed the corporate contribution limits. To expand accountability and disclosure in campaign fund raising, the Assembly has passed this legislation to close the LLC loophole for several years because it's critical to ensuring the integrity of our electoral and political process.

The LLC loophole currently allows big special interests to virtually by pass the campaign contribution limits that apply to most New Yorkers, and give politicians vast sums of money, often without clearly identifying the source. The Assembly's passing of this bill means a crucial step toward reforming our laws and eliminating one of the preferred tools special interests use to buy influence wholesale. It is now time for the Senate to act on this bill. **Please call the Governor; Senator Flanagan and Senator Klein to urge them bring this bill to the floor in the Senate.**

The Assembly's LLC loophole closing legislation ([A.1926](#), Kavanagh), which has passed every year since 2015, would eliminate a provision in the current law that allows LLCs to make campaign contributions as individuals, ending the practice where one person or a corporation owns multiple LLCs that are used to funnel donations to a single candidate or committee.

Under the bill, the LLC contributions would be restricted to the same \$5,000 aggregate contribution limit that current law imposes on corporations. The measure also would require contributions made by an LLC to disclose the identity of all direct and indirect LLC owners, including the percentage of their ownership interest. It also directs that attribution be provided in reports to the board of elections for any contributions made by the LLC to its owners.

Assembly passes "Boss Bill" Legislation to Protect Employee Privacy in Reproductive Choice

Another important bill that I co-sponsored which passed the Assembly this week is called the "Boss Bill," which would bar employers from discriminating against an employee on the basis of the individual's or their dependent's reproductive health decision making ([A.566-A](#), Jaffee).

This measure would prohibit employers from accessing an employee's personal information regarding reproductive health decision making or imposing any requirements that would obstruct an employee's ability to exercise their right to make these decisions and access related health and medical services. Additionally, the bill would take steps to ensure that employees are notified of their right to freely exercise their reproductive health choices and provides for remedies and penalties for employers who violate these rights.

The Boss Bill continues New York's long history of protecting individuals from discrimination in the workplace by strengthening and expanding state law to ensure that an employer cannot retaliate against an employee because the employee or their dependent accessed care related to pregnancy, family planning or any reproductive health service."

Despite the landmark *Roe v. Wade* decision in 1973, women have faced numerous challenges in exercising their constitutionally protected right to make reproductive health decisions over their own bodies. The most recent efforts to block this cornerstone of women's equality have sought to limit access to the health services and contraceptive devices that women and families have come to rely on for family planning needs. By prohibiting workplace discrimination and outlawing retaliation against employees who exercise their constitutional right to choose, this legislation would continue New York's commitment to defending reproductive choice.

I am proud to cosponsor this bill as well as [A1378](#), which would reduce the number of unintended pregnancies by requiring that commercial group health insurance policies cover all FDA approved contraceptive drugs, devices, and products and [A1748](#), which would provide further access to reproductive services, by stating that an abortion may be performed by a licensed, certified, or authorized practitioner within 24 weeks from the commencement of pregnancy, or there is an absence of fetal viability, or at any time when necessary to protect a patient's life or health. It is so important that New York State Update its women's health and reproductive rights laws, so we cannot stop fighting. **Please call the Governor and State Senator's Flanagan and Klein and urge them to bring these bills to the floor for an up or down vote.**

Brooklyn Pride

As I do every year, I am proud to have joined Lambda Independent Democrats in the annual twilight Brooklyn Pride March down 5th Avenue in Park Slope. It's a wonderful parade and something that I look forward to participating in every year. It is so important, especially with what is going on in Washington today that we pull together and celebrate our diversity, because it is in that diversity where we find our greatest strength.



Vigil for the Victims of Orlando

On Sunday night, I joined with the Brooklyn Pride Center and a host of elected officials including our Comptroller and Public Advocate to commemorate the 1 year anniversary of the heinous event that took place at the Pulse night club in Orlando, Florida last year where 49 innocent people were murdered. In my remarks I talk about the importance of celebrating our diversity and how we must continue to fight back against hate and division and how our equality, no matter our sexual orientation must be honored.

View my full remarks below:



7th Heaven Street Fair

My office will have a table at the 7th Heaven Street fair between 13th and 14th Street on Sunday, June 18th. The Fair starts at 12pm, so please come by and say hello!

See you around the neighborhood,
Bobby