



February 11, 2022

Greetings --

Since I was elected in 2016, I have been open about my struggle with dyslexia as a child and have tried to use my platform to advocate for students. That is why I introduced [A.2185](#), legislation that would establish a statewide dyslexia task force to create guidelines for how to appropriately screen students for dyslexia, provide necessary teacher training, and institute an evidence-based literacy curriculum that is rooted in multi-sensory sequential phonics.

At this week's [budget hearing](#) I announced that I am circulating a budget letter in the Assembly calling upon Governor Hochul to invest \$10.2 million for universal dyslexia screening, comprehensive teacher training, and evidence based curriculum changes.

POLITICOPRO

Carroll requests \$10M for dyslexia screening and teacher training



Photo by Hans Pennink/AP Photo

“My teacher, she didn't wish it away... she said to my parents, ‘I think he's dyslexic,’” Carroll recalled.

BY MADINA TOURÉ | 02/09/2022

Brooklyn Assemblymember Robert Carroll, a longtime advocate for helping kids with dyslexia, is calling for \$10 million to be put toward screening and intervention in the state budget.

Context: During a budget hearing in Albany on Wednesday, Carroll testified he is circulating a letter requesting \$10.2 million be set aside in this coming fiscal year's spending plan to help identify students with dyslexia and support teachers with related professional development and curriculum changes.

Carroll said he just started sharing the letter among colleagues and already has some supporters. He expects to draw more signatures in the coming weeks. Mayor Eric Adams is also a vocal advocate for students with dyslexia who have difficulty learning how to read.

"The letter talks about screening which is highly important but it also talks about professional development for our teachers because many of them have not been trained or educated in evidence-based reading curriculum and literacy curriculum and that's one of the reasons why we have so many problems," Carroll told POLITICO in an interview.

As I said on Wednesday, my life was saved by early identification and the ability of my parents to advocate for me to receive the evidence-based curriculum I needed to remediate my dyslexia. If not for that, I would not have the life I have today. That is why it is my honor and my responsibility to advocate for children who have dyslexia so they can be identified and provided with the resources they need to thrive.

During the hearing, Mayor Adams spoke about his own dyslexia and I was humbled to [hear him say](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6yUeAx0LOA) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6yUeAx0LOA>) that my openness about my own diagnosis helped him overcome the stigma and to speak about his experience of being diagnosed with dyslexia as an adult. I am partnering with Mayor Adams and DOE Chancellor David Banks in these efforts, both of whom have been strong supporters of my calls for universal screening for dyslexia and evidence-based curriculum interventions. It is a sea change to have these kinds of partners in city government and I am optimistic about the impact we can have for students with dyslexia and other learning disabilities and differences.

High Electric Bills

Many of you have reached out to my office over the last couple weeks astonished by the increase in your electric bills, some seeing their bills doubled or tripled. For background, there are two parts to every bill: supply and delivery. New York State regulates the delivery costs Con Edison is allowed to charge customers, but the supply charge was deregulated under the Pataki administration with the idea that competition would keep prices down. Because a great deal of electricity requires fuel to produce and because fuel charges are surging (evident at the gas pumps), the supply charges on electric bills are also surging. With many consumers barely recovering from the economic impacts of COVID and inflation, this electric bill increase is especially hard hitting.

The Public Utility Law Project (PULP) a consumer advocacy organization that supports low-income utility customers, recommends some strategies to weather this surge in pricing until warmer weather brings down demand and prices. First, pay what you can each month and apply to the utility for financing and/or a payment agreement that will make the cost more manageable on a monthly basis. If the utility refuses to work with you, [file a complaint with the Department of Public Service](#) or call the hotline at 1-800-342-3355.

I am calling on the Public Service Commission (PSC) to initiate an investigation into Con Edison's billing practices. I am also asking Governor Hochul and the New York Congressional delegation to request that the federal government release fuel reserves to bring down electricity costs. In addition, \$1.25B should be earmarked in the budget from the American Rescue Plan money to tackle consumer utility arrears. These costs are endangering the economic stability of low-income households across the State. If you need assistance with your electric bill and contacting Con Edison, contact my office at carrollr@nyassembly.gov.

I am grateful there is some recourse provided to people hit with this unexpected added expense, but this is the sort of situation that can be expected to continue to happen at the hands of investor-owned utilities. Until we take the profit out of utilities, we will continue to see issues such as neglected infrastructure and volatility in supply chain costs, among other things. This is one of the reasons investment in public utilities, such as my bill, the [NY Build Public Renewables Act](#) (https://nyassembly.gov/leg/?bn=A01466&leg_video=), is so critical. Not only to foster investment in alternative and sustainable power sources and infrastructure, but also to ensure something as fundamental as our heat and electricity isn't at the mercy of a profit-based industry.

Honoring Local Small Businesses

Today I joined a neighbors from Windsor Terrace to honor Ballard and Oak Park Pharmacy and their owners, Mohammed and Sajit Patel, with citations from the New York State Assembly. Our local pharmacies have been tremendous over the course of this pandemic particularly and it is important to acknowledge their work and contributions. I'd like to thank Lizi Moses for coming to my office with this idea.



If you know of a local small business who you think has gone above and beyond during these difficult times, please reach out to my office at carrollr@nyassembly.gov or call us at (718) 788-7221.

Bobby

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