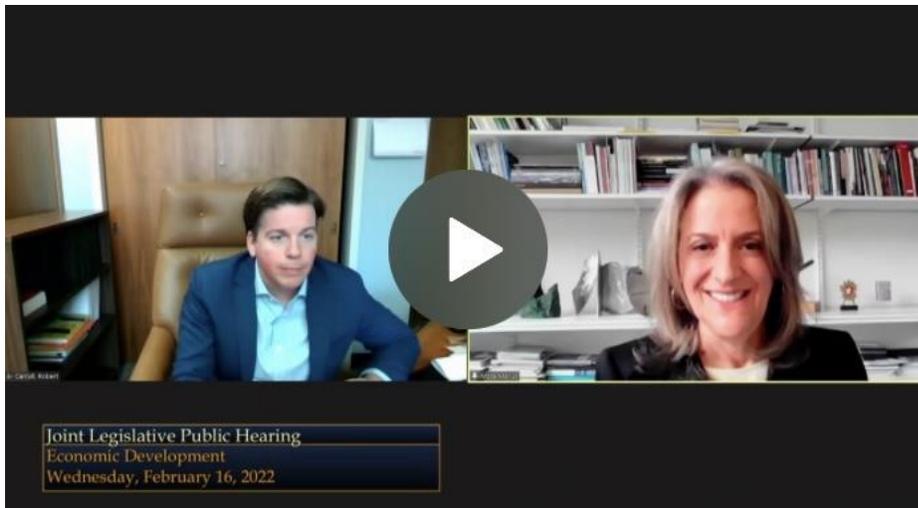




**February 18, 2022**

Greetings --

As Chair of the Subcommittee on Museums and Cultural Institutions, I questioned Mara Manus, the Executive Director of the [New York State Council on the Arts \(NYSCA\)](#) this week in Albany.



NYSCA is the state's grantmaking entity for arts and culture organizations. They do great work and help fund thousands of organizations statewide, but their funding is still below its peak funding level in 1989. I believe deeply in the arts and think it's vital that as a state we invest much more in these organizations, especially this year, when we have a record surplus.

**Con Edison Bills and Build Public Renewables:**

Last week, I started to hear from Con Ed customers in my district who are distraught over the dramatic spike in their bills. As I explained then, this spike is the result of decades old deregulation and surging fuel costs that are driving up the cost to supply electricity to consumers. While some reasonable cost increases are expected on a seasonal basis, bills doubling and

tripling are not. I fully support the letter drafted by the [Public Utility Law Project \(PULP\)](#) that demands urgent action for Con Ed customers now, but I also want my colleagues in the Assembly to join me in demanding that New York State pick up the pace in switching to renewable energy sources, so we are no longer at the mercy of investor-owned utilities.

I fully support a 5-part approach to provide consumers with some immediate relief and peace of mind.

- Address household budget-crushing arrears by taking \$1.25B from New York's share of the American Recovery Act money and using it to pay down the energy debt for low-to moderate income households.
- I support legislation to allow water, telephone and broadband companies to reduce their tax obligation in exchange for dollar for dollar forgiveness of customer arrears.
- Direct the Public Service Commission to develop and implement a meaningful customer arrears program for energy utility companies such as Con Ed.
- Extend the moratorium on utility shut offs due to unpaid bills for all utility customers until at least June 1, 2022.
- Require Con Ed to better explain forecasted commodity price changes and hedge against market fluctuations.

The lesson of this utility cost crisis is that the State remains overly reliant on fossil fuels to meet our energy needs. That is why I [sponsor the Build Public Renewables Act](#). The BPRA lifts the arbitrary generation cap on the New York Power Authority (NYPA), the largest Public Power Authority in the country, and enables them to own and build new renewable projects to ensure we meet the mandates of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. BPRA would make NYPA accountable to everyday New Yorkers, and expand interconnection by removing uncertainty in the renewable build-out. We do not have time to waste, this month's spike in electric bills shows what happens when we are reliant on gas, we must Build Public Renewables.

Please contact my office at (718) 788 -7221 or email [carrollr@nyassembly.gov](mailto:carrollr@nyassembly.gov) if you need assistance with your Con Ed bills.

### **Dyslexia Budget Funding Push & an Upcoming Event:**

Earlier this week 20 of my Assembly colleagues joined me in sending a letter to the Speaker calling for \$10M to be included in the state budget for NYC public schools to universally screen for dyslexia, provide teacher training, and evidence based literacy curriculum.

Relatedly, there's an exciting event on March 1st sponsored by the Literacy Academy Collective if you're interested in learning more about ways to get involved with these critical issues.

# Learning to Read is a Civil Right How We Drive Change



Join our Round Table Discussion with Special Guest Speakers

## Kareem Weaver & Carissa Berliner

NAACP Education Committee (Oakland) &  
Leader of Full and Complete Reading is a  
Universal Mandate (FULCRUM)

Literacy Coach, NYC DOE

*"There can be no equity,  
no social justice,  
without literacy!"*



**Tuesday, March 1, 7:00 PM**

Pre-Register at [bit.ly/LACRead](https://bit.ly/LACRead)

Free and Open to All!

Hosted by Literacy Academy Collective  
Moderated by Naomi Peña, Co-Founder, LAC



In Partnership With: Congressman Jamaal Bowman, Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez, State  
Senators Brad Hoylman and Robert Jackson, Assemblymembers Robert C. Carroll, Harvey Epstein,  
Deborah J. Glick and Jo Anne Simon, Councilmember Christopher Marte and Carlina Rivera, Council  
of School Supervisors and Administrators, Decoding Dyslexia, Education Council Consortium,  
Families for Real Equity in Education, The New 3Rs, PRESS NYC

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-Bobby

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