



May 24, 2024

Greetings –

This week in Albany, I was proud to join my Assembly colleagues in passing a package of legislation to help people with disabilities in New York State get the services and opportunities they need and deserve. Included in this package is a bill ([A.1577](#)) that would expand the Developmental Disability Ombudsman Program to ensure individuals with developmental disabilities are aided in exercising their rights and bettering their quality of life through a toll-free telephone hotline, an interactive website and an in-person staff member. Also passed, were two bills to expand and promote employment of people with disabilities. [A.6397A](#) establishes a taskforce to promote state agency employment for people with disabilities while [A.5815](#) requires state agencies and contractors to report data on the employment of people with disabilities and their level of participation.

Advocating for the Passage of the Heat Act

This Wednesday, I again joined my colleagues and advocates at a rally in Albany calling for the passage of the NY HEAT Act ([A.4592](#)) by the end of session. This essential environmental legislation eliminates the current requirement that utilities provide gas connections to customers on demand. The costs of this have been passed on to ratepayers effectively making them subsidize fossil fuel infrastructure expansion. The HEAT Act would instead compel the Public Service Commission to promulgate rules aligned with clean energy build-out to replace gas infrastructure as well as ensuring that low and moderate customers pay no more than 6% of their income on utility bills (the accepted standard for affordability).



Contingency Management Legislation Moves Forward

My bill on Contingency Management ([A.6674](#)) passed the Assembly Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse this week. Contingency Management is a method used in substance use disorder treatment that provides an incentive structure to help participants overcome their addiction. It is one of the most evidence-based and cost-effective yet underutilized treatments for substance use disorders and it's time for New York to embrace and scale-up this innovative approach. This legislation would require the State to establish guidelines for a statewide program and make New York a leader in this area.

Dyslexia Diagnosis Act Advances in the Senate

My bill, the Dyslexia Diagnosis Access Act ([A.2898/S5481](#)), which passed the Assembly earlier this year has now passed the Senate Insurance Committee and is currently under consideration in the Senate Finance Committee. The bill would mandate that private health insurance policies pay for neuropsychological exams for the purpose of diagnosing dyslexia. The cost of such exams makes them out of reach to many families and my bill would significantly address this. An essential part of children with dyslexia and related learning

disorders getting the services they need is positive identification of the nature of their disorder.

Full Service Friday 5/31

A reminder that if you need to shred your sensitive documents, the MTA Metrocard Van, or a Rain Barrel, all of these services will be at my District Office on Friday, 5/31. There are a few rain barrels still available, but we're running out fast, so [make sure to reserve here now](#) if you need one.

FULL SERVICE FRIDAY

Friday
May

31

- ◆ **PAPER SHREDDING**
- ◆ **MTA METROCARD VAN**
- ◆ **FREE RAIN BARRELS**

All services will be provided on the sidewalk
in front of my district office at
416 7th Avenue in Park Slope
(between 13th and 14th Streets)



9am-12pm: NYC Department of Sanitation's paper shredding truck, no reservation is necessary, just walk up to the truck with your paper to shred. (please remove all plastic or metal including staples and binder clips, and NO cardboard)



10am-2PM: MTA Metrocard Van for all your MetroCard related issues including reduced fare applications; transferring balances; lost, stolen, or damaged cards and more! No reservation is necessary, walk-up service at the van window.



Rain Barrel only QR code



9am-3pm: FREE rain barrels from NYC Department of Environmental Protection. You must reserve your rain barrel in advance using the QR code below, the rain barrels will be delivered to my office by 9am. (If there any are left-over, we will offer them on a first come first serve basis after 3pm, if you cannot use the QR code, please call the office to reserve your FREE rain barrel)

Congratulations to the PS 130 Brooklyn Lions Chess Team

I spent the afternoon celebrating PS 130's history making Brooklyn Lions chess team! These 2nd and 3rd graders made PS 130 the first school from Brooklyn to ever win the primary open at the New York State Scholastic chess championships! Please join me in congratulating these champions and the entire PS 130 community!



If you have any concerns about any legislative or community issue, please email me at carrollr@nyassembly.gov or call (718) 788-7221.

Have a wonderful Memorial Day Weekend.

-Bobby

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