

ASSEMBLY MEMBER

Emily E. Gallagher

DISTRICT 50



*Reports to the people*

*Dear Neighbors,*

It's hard to believe it's already Fall, but here we are. As children are returning to school and temperatures are settling into my favorite range, I wanted to reach out to say hello and provide a bit of an update.

These are unsettling times in our state and country. The affordability crisis in the city is at a fever pitch, with both residential and commercial rents at an all-time high. The cost of utilities, groceries, and everyday essentials continue to climb, while our wages do not. We are watching our immigrant neighbors kidnapped by the federal government in increasingly violent and unprecedented ways.



Trump's Big Bad Budget Bill will mean major cuts to the healthcare and nutrition benefits New Yorkers depend on. It's been less than a year since we watched Robert Brooks murdered on camera by corrections officers, and we're still waiting on the Governor to sign the Prison Oversight Package that we passed this session (the package contained two bills I originally sponsored—more on that below!).

But there are lots of reasons to be hopeful, too. I'm incredibly inspired by the work I see all around me in our community to care for our neighbors, create art and beauty, and organize to weather these storms. I've been reached out to by leaders from other states and even other countries to discuss strategies for protecting and providing more for our constituents. The silver-lining to all of this madness is just how many opportunities there are to connect with one another and fight for what we believe in. And you know, I will never stop fighting alongside you!

# LEGISLATIVE RECAP

*The legislative session runs January through June in Albany. Technically, the budget is due on April 1 each year, but the budget has gotten later and later under this Governor, effectively giving us less time to pass legislation that's not in the budget. This year, we extended the session by three days to try and squeeze a bit more in. Below, you'll find a recap of my bills I passed this year that are awaiting the Governor's signature.*

## **Reforming the State Commission on Correction Reform** (which became part of the Prison Oversight Omnibus Bill)

The State Commission on Correction (SCOC) is statutorily the most powerful watchdog agency for our state's prisons and jails, but it was gutted in the 1990s and has done very little in recent years to protect incarcerated people. My bill — which my office wrote after I visited Rikers Island in 2021 and saw the horrific and inhumane conditions people were subjected to — will expand and diversify the SCOC. It will increase the body from three to nine members and ensure commissioners include people with backgrounds in public health, behavioral health, defense litigation, and at least one formerly incarcerated person. With these changes, it will once again become a body that has the resources and expertise necessary to protect incarcerated people.

## **Terry Cooper Autopsy Accountability Act** (also became part of the Prison Oversight Omnibus Bill)

This bill (A5424) is named after Terry Cooper, a husband and father who was just 25 in 2016, when he was beaten to death by correctional officers using batons at Clinton Correctional Facility. His official cause of death was determined to be “cardio-respiratory arrest consistent with acute exacerbation of chronic asthma” because his beating triggered an asthma attack. The autopsy report did not include photographs that had been taken of Mr. Cooper after he passed away, which clearly showed he had been beaten with batons. My bill will require autopsy reports to include all photographs of the body, slides, and post-mortem x-rays taken by the person performing the autopsy. This legislation will ensure that incarcerated

people are afforded the accountability and dignity that all people deserve when their life is unjustly taken — particularly when they die on our watch.

## **Replacing “Addict” in NYS Law with Person-First Language**

This bill (A2398) changed every reference in New York State Law from “addict” to “person with substance use disorder” or some variation thereof. Person-first language matters. The stigmatization of people with substance use disorder doesn't just reflect an outdated understanding of science and medicine — it perpetuates harmful stereotypes that prevent people from receiving the care and treatment they deserve. Ensuring our laws reflect person-first, humane language is just one way we can protect New Yorkers and ensure all people are treated with dignity.

## **Protecting the LLC Transparency Act From Federal Changes**

Those of you who are reading this might remember that, two years ago, I passed a landmark law known as the LLC Transparency Act. The bill was a first-in-the-nation piece of legislation passed to crack down on white-collar crime fostered by anonymous shell companies by requiring the beneficial owners of LLCs that do business in New York state to disclose their identities to the New York Department of State. This law leveraged definitions based on a 2021 federal law, the “Corporate Transparency Act” (CTA), to avoid confusion. But in March of this year, the new administration announced it would no longer be implementing the CTA with respect to domestic corporations and issued a rule significantly gutting regulations upon which the law depends. The law I passed (A8662) put the definitions from the CTA into the LLC Transparency Act, so the state can continue to step up and protect New Yorkers, even as the federal government retreats.





But it wouldn't be the legislative session if I didn't walk away feeling like there is more that needs to be done. I am continuing to look for creative ways to stand up to the Trump administration, protect New Yorkers, address the affordability crisis, and improve quality of life for my constituents. At the core of so many of these issues is the fight between people and corporate profits, and it is my mission to help rebalance those scales to increase health, wellbeing, and opportunity for you all.

*I'm already thinking about next year, so here are a few of my bills I'm going to be pushing hard come January:*

### **Creating Social Housing (A6265)**

Here in District 50, we have witnessed firsthand what happens when luxury developers take over the neighborhood — rents go through the roof, even when the housing itself is substandard at best. It is clear that for-profit developers will not solve the affordability crisis they created. My social housing bill was inspired by the beautiful, permanently affordable housing I saw in Vienna. It would permanently stabilize rent at 25% of household income. New York State has a legacy of creating social housing, and we can do it again to address our affordability crisis and protect working class New Yorkers.

### **Stabilizing Commercial Rent (A5568)**

From Pencil Factory to Mr. Berry, too many beloved businesses in our district are closing because they can't afford the rent. This is bad for our community — it's bad for local jobs, neighborhood vibrancy, and community safety. Residential rent stabilization dramatically improved stability for tenants, and it's time we offer local businesses the same thing. If you're a local business interested in joining the coalition to support this bill, reach out to my office at [District50@nyassembly.gov](mailto:District50@nyassembly.gov).

### **Stopping Super Speeders (A2299)**

Speeding kills, and the worst traffic crashes are caused by a tiny percentage of people. This bill would require the installation of speed limiters on the vehicles of our state's most reckless drivers—people who accumulate 11 or more points on their license in an 18-month period or receive 16 speed camera tickets in a year. We know that 20% of pedestrian fatalities from vehicular crashes are caused by just 1.5% of the state's most reckless drivers, and I'm confident this bill will save lives. It passed the Senate this year, so next year we will focus hard on getting it through the Assembly.



That's all for now. My office is always here for you, so feel free to stop by and see us at 61 Greenpoint Ave., #213, or send us an email at [District50@nyassembly.gov](mailto:District50@nyassembly.gov)

Gratefully,

*Emily Gallagher*

Assemblymember  
Emily Gallagher



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**ASSEMBLYMEMBER**  
**Emily Gallagher**  
**DISTRICT 50**

*Reports to the people*



## CONNECTING WITH OUR OFFICE



**Need help with unemployment insurance?**

**Not getting a response from a state or city agency?**

**Have a neighborhood concern?**

**Reach out to our district office at 61 Greenpoint Avenue, #213 in Brooklyn!**  
**Call us at 718-383-7474 or write to [District50@nyassembly.gov](mailto:District50@nyassembly.gov).**