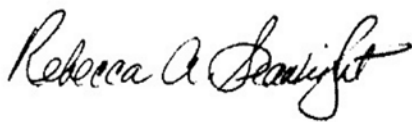


Dear Neighbor,

Please allow me to share the strides that we are making for the betterment of our great state. I hope you will find the community update to be informative and helpful.

If there is any way that I can be of service to you, my office is just a call, e-mail or visit away.

Best Wishes,



Rebecca A. Seawright
Member of Assembly, 76th
District

1365 First Avenue (73/74 Streets)
212.288.4607
@SeawrightforNY
Facebook.com/Rebecca-A-Seawright



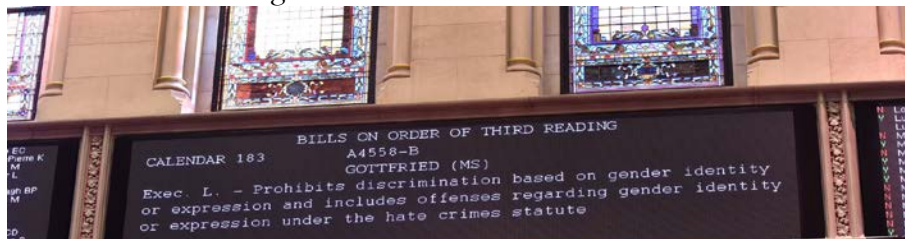
Assembly Member Seawright votes for the passage of GENDA.

Assembly Passes GENDA in the Fight to Protect the Transgender Community from Discrimination

Across the country, transgender individuals are facing an assault on their basic human rights. That's why we must stand up to discrimination and protect the rights of every New Yorker. The Assembly Majority once again passed the **Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA) (A4558-B)**, sending the message that intolerance has no place in our state.

Sadly, transgender individuals often experience housing and employment discrimination, are refused service or face physical violence because of their gender identity. While the state protects against discrimination based on sex, race, age, creed, nationality, disability, military status, marital status and sexual orientation, it has not yet extended this important protection to transgender people.

New Yorkers should feel safe and comfortable living the lives they want to live. It's time for the Senate to join us in extending protections to all citizens of this great state.



Assembly Passes Bill Cosponsored by Assembly Member Seawright to Ban Medicine Price Gouging

This week, the Assembly passed legislation to prohibit medicine price gouging, which prevents people from accessing life-saving medication. Assembly Member Seawright, who sits on the committee on Consumer Affairs and Protection, remarked “We absolutely must act to add medicine to the list of items subject to price gouging. Soaring drug prices made headlines in 2015 and if we do not act, the trend will not stop in 2016.” Overpriced medications have been burdening the healthcare system, both hindering the treatment of ill patients and the doctors who need to provide appropriate treatment for the best care. “I speak on behalf of numerous seniors in my district who are greatly affected by the soaring prices of medicine they need. I speak on behalf of the hospitals in my district, who are forced to buy medications from secondary suppliers at a significantly higher-rate, and on behalf of their patients who cannot live without them. We should not allow the market to use patients as their hostages at the most vulnerable time of their life,” Seawright continued.

Seawright Bill Allowing Ongoing Distribution of Public Purpose Funds Becomes Law

On April 8, 2016, Governor Cuomo signed into law A9177, a bill introduced by Assembly Member Rebecca A. Seawright that removes the sunset provision from last year’s legislation clarifying the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation’s ability to distribute Public Purpose Funds on Roosevelt Island. The removal of the sunset provision – which initially called for the legislation to expire on December 31, 2016 – will allow RIOC to distribute the funds indefinitely. Sponsored in the Senate by Senator José Serrano, the legislation marks the 7th bill signed into state law that was introduced by Seawright since 2015.

One of the Keys to Healthy Families is a Healthy Environment

Assemblymember Rebecca Seawright helped pass a series of measures to protect the environment and preserve public health by strengthening environmental justice policies and restricting the use of dangerous chemicals in children’s products.

“We have just one planet, and we must take action to protect it,” said Assemblymember Seawright. “This legislation will help protect natural resources, preserve public health and build a brighter, more sustainable future for New York State. A healthy environment is vital to the safety and wellness of our families.”

Pursuing environmental justice

Historically, low-income communities have been disproportionately affected by the siting of new projects with adverse environmental impacts. Areas with existing environmental hazards are frequently chosen for new projects that have the potential to further exacerbate environmental hazards within that area and unfairly put residents’ health at risk, Seawright noted. To address this inequity, the Assembly passed a bill that would require the state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to publish a list of “high local environmental impact zones” and consider various factors that contribute to an area’s environmental health (A3382).

Moreover, legislation was passed to establish a permanent Environmental Justice Advisory Group and an Environmental Justice Interagency Coordinating Council within the DEC to create environmental justice policies that state agencies would then be required to adopt and abide by (A3063).

“A healthy environment is a priceless gift that every New Yorker must benefit from,” said Assembly Member Seawright. “By shielding low-income communities from environmental hazards, we can help protect the health and well-being of those families who need it most.”

Protecting families from harmful chemicals

To ensure that children's products are safe for our kids, the Assembly passed legislation to restrict the use of dangerous chemicals in products meant for children (A5612-A). Other legislation included a bill to create stricter standards for lamps containing mercury (A5844-A). Medical research has shown that exposure to high levels of mercury can have severe health effects that include neurological damage, particularly for children and infants.

"No parent should ever have to worry that a children's toy or simple household item might have adverse effects on their child's health," said Assemblymember Rebecca Seawright. "Limiting the use of dangerous chemicals in products designed for our kids will help keep our families healthy and give more New Yorkers the peace of mind they deserve."

Encouraging public involvement and science-based decision making

The Assembly also passed legislation to establish a moratorium on the DEC's plan to eradicate all but a small number of mute swans. (A9289). The DEC has suggested the swans damage local ecosystems, but public hearings and additional research are necessary before those claims can be substantiated, making it necessary to examine the issue further, Seawright noted.

Seawright Passes Legislation to Strengthen Support For Victims of Domestic Violence



"Domestic violence is tragic, comes in many forms and has far-reaching side effects. I'm committed to doing everything I can on the state level to reduce its incidence and offer support to those who have been affected," said Assemblymember Rebecca Seawright. "Domestic violence is chronically unreported. Even so, in New York State in 2014, 186,002 calls were made to hotlines to report domestic violence. We must do all we can to prevent this abhorrent crime and protect our communities."

The damage caused by domestic violence is not limited by gender, age, ethnicity or sexual orientation. Survivors and their children often struggle with the long-term effects for years. The Assembly's legislation represents a commitment to making sure victims have the support they need.

Preventing discrimination

"Victims of domestic violence have not only physical, but also emotional hurdles to overcome, as they heal and move forward," said Seawright. "It's wrong for employers to discriminate based on a domestic violence situation, which is why the Assembly's legislation aims to make it illegal."

Specifically, the Assembly's legislation would prohibit employment discrimination against victims of domestic violence and allow employees to take time off from work to attend court proceedings or medical and counseling appointments related to domestic violence (A272).

Protecting victims

"When an intimate partner becomes abusive, it can be frightening to seek help – unfortunately, that's one reason these crimes often go unreported," said Assemblymember Seawright. "But survivors need to know they are not alone and help is available, and the Assembly's legislation strengthens the laws that protect them."

The measures would:

- o prohibit domestic violence offenders from possessing or purchasing a firearm (A5257 and A6340);

- o require the language interpretation of orders of protection in court proceedings (A162);
- o require hospitals to establish procedures regarding domestic violence and ongoing training programs for staff, and to designate a hospital staff member to coordinate services to victims (A1232-A);
- o extend a law authorizing referees to determine applications for orders of protection while family court is in session (A9686); and
- o allow judges expanded discretion in sentencing defendants who are victims of domestic violence where the abuse was a significant factor in the commission of an offense (A4409-B).

Expanding victims' rights

“While recovering from a domestic violence situation, victims need support to help them take back their lives,” said Seawright. “The Assembly’s legislation will hold abusers accountable for their actions and give survivors and their loved ones the tools to put their abuse behind them.”

The Assembly’s legislation would:

- o allow victims to recover non-economic damages from any or all defendants found liable for failure to obey or enforce domestic violence orders of protection or temporary orders of protection (A260);
- o require wireless telephone companies to allow victims of domestic violence to opt out of shared or family plans without incurring any penalties (A326-A);
- o require companies to allow victims of domestic violence to end services like cable, internet or phone, when there is a domestic violence incident report, an order of protection or a signed affidavit (A274-A);
- o require health insurers to allow victims of domestic violence to designate alternative contact information to receive claim and billing information (A1358); and
- o ensure victims of domestic violence understand their rights during criminal and family court proceedings by simplifying the language in court documents (A9628).

Victims of domestic violence and sexual assault can seek help 24 hours a day by calling New York’s toll-free hotline at 1-800-942-6906. For further information, visit the New York State Office of Victim Services’ website at ovs.ny.gov or the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence website at opdv.ny.gov.

Roosevelt Island Library Literary Landmark Dedication

On April 12, 2016, Assembly Member Seawright awarded the Roosevelt Island Library with a proclamation from New York State on the occasion of the Literary Landmark dedication. Vice President of Library Services for NYPL Christopher Platt, Director of Empire State for the Book, Council Member Ben Kallos, Director of the DiMenna Children’s History Museum Alice Stevenson, and Roosevelt Island Historical Society’s Judith Berdy also took part in the dedication. The Library was dedicated as a Literary Landmark for Roosevelt Island’s history and its significance in notable classic novels.



New Laws Taking Effect

Effective Date	Chapter Number	Bill Number	Summary
April 23, 2016	Chapter 391 of 2015	A.1323-B S.676-B	The CARE Act requires hospitals to allow a patient to designate, upon admission, a caregiver in the patient's medical record. The hospital would be required to notify and offer to meet with the designated caregiver to discuss the patient's plan of care before the patient is discharged or transferred. It also requires hospitals to adequately train the caregiver in caring for a patient after the discharge.
April 1, 2016	Chapter 367 of 2015	A.6262 S.6	This new law creates a pilot program to help domestic violence victims secure immediate protection from their abusers by allowing them to file for a temporary order of protection electronically, and permits protection decisions to be issued by audio-visual means.

Assembly Member Rebecca A. Seawright Stands Up for Voter Participation



At a recent press conference, Assembly Member Seawright called for much needed reforms to increase voter participation in City and State elections and to improve how elections are administered. Seawright said, "I am proud to join my colleagues in the fight for these critical reforms in New York City and across the State. It is our civic duty to improve how we conduct elections and pave the way for voters to actively participate in the process of electing those who hold public office."

The current voting restrictions and barriers to a ballot limit citizen participation. Voter turnout in New York City hit a historic low in November of 2014, when only 25% of registered voters cast a ballot. Even in areas with the highest participation,

including the 76th Assembly District, more voters stayed home than cast a ballot. Only 34 % of registered voters made it to the polls for that election. Seawright continued listing the reasons for immediate reforms to the voting system:

"We need a more comprehensive, uniform ballot that is easier to read, understand and use!

We need the ability to mail absentee ballots until the day before an election!

We need to criminalize interference with the operation of a poll site!

We need to increase compensation for Election Day workers!

We need to adequately fund BOE operations!

We need consistency in how congressional, state and city council districts are drawn!

We need to do away with voter ID laws that unfairly target low-income, veteran, student, and minority voters!

Our voter participation reflects the health and stability of our democracy, and we need to strengthen our democracy. Women obtained the right to vote in 1920 and this year marks the 100th anniversary of the women's suffrage movement. Every American who is eligible to vote should have access on Election Day. Now is the time to enact reforms!

For more information on the voter participation, please contact the community office of Assembly Member Rebecca A. Seawright at 212.288.4607.

Assembly Member Rebecca A. Seawright Joins Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney in Releasing 2016 Gender Pay Inequality Report

On Friday, April 8, 2016 Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright joined Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney in releasing annual Congressional Joint Economic Committee Report on Gender Pay Inequality at Hunter College. Congresswoman led the panel of women who have distinguished themselves as fighters for women's rights and equal pay – Heidi Hartmann, President of Institute for Women's Policy Research, Hunter College President Jennifer Raab, Hunter College Professor of Economics Purvi Sevak, and Assembly Member Rebecca A. Seawright.



“I am proud to join Congresswoman Maloney and the remarkable expert women on this panel to bring everyone's attention to the stark realities detailed in this report,” said Assembly Member Seawright. “The report shows that our economy is two trillion dollars bigger today due to women's participation in the workforce, and still, women make 79 cents on a dollar men do nationally, and 87 cents statewide. We simply must redouble our efforts, through legislation, education and sunlight to break the cycle of inequitable treatment so that women may obtain not just what they earn, but what they deserve.”

East Side Housing Forum

Thursday, May 19, 6-8 PM

Trevor Day School

312 East 95th Street

In partnership with the Rent Justice Coalition and other elected officials, Assembly Member Seawright will co-host an East Side Housing Forum at the Trevor Day School. At the end of June, the Rent Guidelines Board (RGB) will vote on possible rent increases for regulated tenants. On May 3, the RGB agreed to discuss/vote on a 0%-2% increase for 1 year leases and a .5%-3.5% rent increase for 2 year leases. Pending the final vote by the RGB, we could see a rent freeze for tenants with a 1 year lease for the second year in a row! Call 212.288.4607 for more information on the East Side Housing Forum.

Summer Reading Challenge 2016: "On Your Mark, Get Set...READ!"

Assemblymember Rebecca Seawright (D-Manhattan) invites Upper East Side, Yorkville and Roosevelt Island children to participate in this enriching experience. In partnership with New York State libraries, children are encouraged to build on the progress they made throughout the school year by reading during the summer. Children who complete the challenge – using their leisure time to enhance their reading skills – are rewarded with the Assembly Excellence in Reading certificate for their hard work and dedication. For more information about the program, please visit summerreadingnys.org, email seawright@assembly.state.ny.us or call Assembly Member Seawright's office at 212.288.4607. Happy reading!

On the first Wednesday of every month, Assembly Member Seawright will hold **office hours on Roosevelt Island**. Hours will be held at the Library or Roosevelt Island Seniors Association. The next Roosevelt Island office hours are on **Wednesday, June 1 from 3-6pm at the Roosevelt Island Library**.



Free Screening Mammograms

Friday, June 3rd

Hosted on Roosevelt Island by:

Assembly Member Rebecca A. Seawright

in Partnership with:

Project Renewal Scan Van

funded by Cancer Services Program of Manhattan and
Judges & Lawyers Breast Cancer Alert



Congresswoman
Carolyn Maloney



New York State Senator
José M. Serrano



New York City Council Member
Ben Kallos

The Scan Van Will be parked in the RIOC plaza, 591 Main Street

Appointments start at 9 a.m.

Please call 1-800-564-6868

*ALL insurance plans Accepted. Co-payments and deductibles are waived.
FREE for uninsured women 40 and older who have not had a mammogram in the past year.*

For more information about this or any state or local issue,
contact Assembly Member Seawright's District Office at 212-288-4607



New York State Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright *Summer 2016 Internship*



Dear Neighbors and Students,

My office is seeking talented students for an internship opportunity in my community office. Applicants must have the desire to learn more about local government. Interns will learn the issues and assist in making our community office vibrant and responsive to the needs of the neighborhood. This position provides students with an exciting opportunity for personal and professional growth with exposure to constituent services, clerical duties, event planning and legislative research. Please see the description and requirements below. I look forward to seeing you this summer!

Best wishes,

Assembly Member, 76th District

Description of internship

Selected interns will learn the communication and problem solving skills necessary to become a public servant. Interns will be involved in a number of administrative and legislative functions including, but not limited to, legislative research, constituent services, event planning, clerical duties, attending community events in the district, and providing support to community office staff. All intern positions are unpaid.

Requirements to apply

Applicants must be at least 16 years of age and willing to commit to a minimum of 20 hours every week. In order to apply, please send your resume and a paragraph explaining your interest in this position to SeawrightR@assembly.state.ny.us

Don't hesitate to call our office with any questions, comments, or concerns at (212) 288-4607.



1365 First Avenue, New York, NY.
(212) 288- 4607
SeawrightR@assembly.state.ny.us