



February 7, 2025

Greetings –

This past week in Albany I met with a range of groups advocating for funding and legislation to be included in the State budget. It is always especially gratifying to meet with constituents who have taken time off work and other responsibilities to make the trip to Albany to let me and my colleagues know why a specific program or piece of legislation is meaningful to them. This year, as I have written in prior communications, the State's budget process is complicated by the very high level of uncertainty we face regarding federal policy. Given the destructive behavior of the Trump Administration and his appointed henchman Elon Musk and their disdain for government, we will have to be prepared to do what we can at the State level to ameliorate the harm and disruption being caused.



Federal Challenges: Trump causing harm but also losing in the courts so far

The State receives billions of dollars from the Federal government; Medicaid, SNAP, our schools, the MTA's Capital Plan, and a host of other programs all rely heavily on

federal dollars and potential cuts to these programs is a grave concern. Any cuts or changes in how such programs are administered, may necessitate a re-ordering of priorities in the State's budget. More immediately, Trump's Executive Orders and administrative actions have superseded Congress' budget powers and is causing disruption on many levels.

Trump and Musk are using what they believe to be a politically popular assault on what they characterize as "DEI" policies and practices to gut the federal government and target groups such as immigrants and transgender people. They have used the threat of cutting off federal funding to private institutions such as hospitals and universities to get them to conform to their perverse agenda. This past week there have been reports of New York hospitals denying gender affirming care to patients in response to Trump's Executive Order. Medical decisions should be made by patients and their doctors; New York State's laws are clear that no one should be discriminated against based on sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation. It will be incumbent on those of us in government and private organizations that are funded and regulated by government to work together to mitigate the harm Trump's policies may cause.

At this early stage the courts have proven to be a bulwark against Trump's unconstitutional power grabs. [New York State Attorney General Letitia James joined other State Attorneys General in filing lawsuits to stop Trump's Executive Order ending birthright citizenship](#) and also the attempt to unilaterally freeze funding for a wide range of federal programs; several lawsuits have also been filed against Trump's Executive Orders by private parties as well and courts have issued temporary injunctions against both the birthright Executive Orders and the funding freeze. Yesterday, in response to a case brought by unions representing federal employees, a federal judge also temporarily blocked Trump's "buy-out" of federal employees union.

The area to date where Trump has been most successful in his assault on government activity he doesn't like is the dismantling of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the federal entity responsible for humanitarian assistance overseas. The immediate termination of programs and laying off of staff means lifesaving medical services and food aid all over the world has been stopped as well as thousands of other programs that have made positive difference in people's lives. One can debate about the role of USAID in relation to US foreign policy objectives, but Trump's giving free reign to Musk to hastily terminate federal programs with no regard to the consequences is extremely misguided.

Congress must stand-up and defend our constitutional order. Even those who agree with some of Trump's objectives should oppose the destruction of the American system of checks and balances.

On the State level, I will continue to work with my colleagues in the legislature to pass legislation and advance policies that meet the moment. I recently joined my Assembly colleagues in acting decisively to continue to strengthen reproductive rights by passing two bills: [\(A.2145-A\)](#) would increase privacy protections for doctors dispensing medications by replacing the prescriber's name with the name of the practice. This would allow New York prescribers to provide care for their patients out of state without fear of direct legal action and has been signed into law by Governor Hochul; [\(A.2141-A\)](#) would provide additional protections for electronic health information. This includes information that is stored by cellphones, smart watches and information collected over the internet through purchases or search history. This legislation protects information that is not already protected by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), including information collected in the pursuit of reproductive healthcare access.

I strongly support the [New York For All Act \(A.3506\)](#), which would prohibit New York state and local government agencies, including police and sheriffs, from cooperating with ICE, disclosing sensitive information, and diverting personnel or other resources to further federal immigration enforcement. This will further preclude Mayor Eric Adams from assisting Trump's immigration agenda. I will be advocating for this bill and other measures to protect immigrant communities as we move forward.

Library Advocacy in Albany

Trump's assault on public services means it is even more important that we work to strengthen our local civic institutions. As the Chair of the Libraries and Education Technology Committee, I was proud to join the New York Library Association and librarians and library supporters from throughout the State for Library advocacy day in Albany this week.



In the State's budget process, I will be advocating for significant funding increases for libraries for both operating and capital needs.

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

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