



# Assemblymember PATRICIA A. FAHY

Legislative Update – 109<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Fall 2019

## Moving the Capital Region and New York Forward

This year's legislative session was perhaps the most productive in recent memory, including the nation's most aggressive climate change legislation. Several pieces of legislation I sponsored were passed by both the Assembly and Senate last session, and in the months following I've introduced more bills to address issues such as access to early childhood education, increased protections for Uber/Lyft passengers, a growing plastic pollution crisis, and meeting the state's new ambitious climate and energy goals.

Two public forums I've held in previous months included one focused on obstacles and challenges that aspiring entrepreneurs and small business owners encounter when starting a business. Another highlighted how artificial intelligence (A.I.) can assist us to predict climate change mitigation, clean energy production and cybersecurity, and how changes brought by A.I. in these sectors may affect the future of the region's economy. I'm honored to represent each of you in the state legislature and I look forward to continuing our work moving the Capital Region forward together in the year and session to come.

### You're Invited: Annual Office Open House! January 24, 2020

Please join us for our Annual Office Open House, here in my office at Room 452 of the Legislative Office Building in Albany, on Friday, January 24, 2020, from 8:30 am – 10:00 am, for networking and to kick off the 2020 Legislative Session!



### Join My Email List!

Are you interested in receiving legislative updates and information about news and events? Join my weekly email list for updates about what's going on in the Capitol and in the Capital Region!

To sign up, email me at [fahyp@nyassembly.gov](mailto:fahyp@nyassembly.gov)

## Passed & Enacted Legislation Highlights

### Signed Into Law

**Bump Stock Ban.** I sponsored legislation to ban the sale, manufacture, and transport of bump stocks or any device that can be used to accelerate a firearm's rate of fire – importantly, this expansive definition includes many of the new devices produced after the Federal government's ban of these devices earlier this year. The Assembly and Senate passed this bill and it was signed into law by the Governor in July. I'm proud to continue this important work in combatting the gun violence epidemic in this country; by ensuring that New York State has some of the toughest gun laws in the country. The more gun laws a state has on the books is directly correlated to lower than average rates of gun violence.

**Statewide Master Trails Plan.** I sponsored legislation that requires the state to establish a state-wide 'master' trails plan. This long-term and multi-use plan will help leverage state and local funds to better connect trail systems and improve regional planning. With a record number of tourists visiting Upstate New York for 'adventure tourism' including hiking, biking, rafting, and other activities, this is an economic opportunity that we should capitalize on. Moreover, this plan will provide more New Yorkers with cheaper, cleaner, alternative modes of transportation when commuting to work or in and around their communities.

**Military Sexual Trauma Support & Services.** Legislation I sponsored to better connect survivors of military sexual assault and trauma with vital resources for recovery and treatment was also signed into law by the Governor. It is critical that we provide proper support and services to our veterans, especially for those who have risked it all serving their country. At the federal level, more must be done to prevent this type of reprehensible behavior from occurring.

### Ensure 'Albany Counts' in 2020!

The 2020 U.S. Census is fast approaching, and it is essential the Capital Region receive an accurate count. The Census determines our area's share of federal funds that help create opportunities and repair our transportation infrastructure – as well as New York's proportional representation in the House of Representatives.

For more information: [albanycounts.com](http://albanycounts.com). For census employment opportunities:

[2020census.gov/jobs](http://2020census.gov/jobs)



Statewide Trails Master Plan Legislation Signed Into Law. A bill I sponsor with Senator Anna Kaplan to establish the state's first-ever Statewide Trails Master Plan was signed into law by the Governor in an effort to continue building off of the Empire State Trail's projected success and New York's existing trail network of over 1,000 non-motorized multi-use trails.

**Home Visiting Mapping.** New York State has many essential evidence-based and evidence-informed home visiting programs that provide families with services to prevent child abuse and maltreatment, enhance positive parent child interactions and empower families to develop and achieve their self-sufficiency goals, however, many families are either unaware or have difficulty accessing these services. This legislation will require Internet mapping of these services and their locations to improve access with the goal of preventing often serious and costly familial and societal problems. The legislation also requires an annual updating of the map and available services.

**Electric Vehicle Chargers in Condos.** As more New Yorkers opt to use electric vehicles, a major impediment to their widespread adoption has been “range anxiety,” or the concern that a lack of electric vehicle charging infrastructure will limit the utility of owning such a vehicle. This is especially true for owners of condominium units, who, unlike traditional homeowners, can face additional bureaucratic hurdles in the installation of a charging station. This bill would grant unit owners greater rights for the installation of electric vehicle charging stations and create a procedure by which a condominium association may approve the installation of such a station.



Sgt. Henry Johnson's Vet House Veteran's Day Breakfast. At the Sgt. Henry Johnson's Veteran's Day breakfast, where Congressman Paul Tonko and I spent the morning with local veterans and stopped by the USS Slater to pay our respect to all those who've served our country.



## Listen to Our Podcast 'The Fahy Files'

Take a moment to listen to a podcast we've started this summer and autumn that focuses on **Capital Region Changemakers** working to enact positive change in our communities.

Simply search "The Fahy Files" on Apple Podcasts!



YMCA Youth in Gov't. I welcomed students from the Capital District YMCA in the Assembly chamber for their Youth in Government Day. We discussed the legislative process in New York State, current policy issues, and talked about engaging more youth in our political process in the future.

## View A List of Legislation I Sponsor!

To view a complete list of bills and legislation I sponsor in the legislature, please visit my Assembly website, and click on the 'Legislation' tab; or just follow this link:

[www.nyasembly.gov/mem/Patricia-Fahy/sponsor/](http://www.nyasembly.gov/mem/Patricia-Fahy/sponsor/)



Last Episode of the Capitol Pressroom with Susan Arbetter. The Capitol Pressroom is a weekday public radio show that is renowned for its in-depth reporting on issues before the state legislature and other New York policy matters. Its host, Susan Arbetter, is a trailblazer in the field of journalism and will be the new host of Capital Tonight, Spectrum's statewide evening political show.

## Proposed Legislation

**Uber and Lyft Passenger Protections.** I sponsor legislation to enact measures to protect passengers and customers who use Uber and Lyft from unforeseen dangers and individuals. The bill would ensure that transportation network carriers (TNCs) are clearly marked as such in order to prevent potentially tragic consequences. The bill also mandates that all TNC vehicles be marked with an illuminated sign so that it is clear they are indeed ride sharing vehicles, and that information (photo, name, and license plate number) about the driver be prominently displayed inside such a vehicle. This measure creates another layer of verification passengers can use to be certain they are getting into the correct vehicle.

**Permitting Craft Beverage Sales in Movie Theaters.** New York's craft beverage sector has become a multi-billion dollar industry, but New Yorkers are not permitted to enjoy any alcoholic beverages in movie theaters throughout the state. Moreover, smaller, 'mom and pop' movie theaters struggle and this would allow them to tap into a new source of revenue. This bill sets forth framework to license and regulate the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages in movie theaters. The legislation contains protections to prevent overconsumption and underage drinking with a mandatory ID check and a one-drink per-purchase per-ticket rule.

**75% Single-Use Beverage Container Recycling Mandate.** In the U.S., only 9% of single use plastic containers are ever recycled. Compounding the problem are global recycling and waste policies, particularly China's National Sword policy, where the recycling market is severely limited. This legislation addresses this problem by creating a new market for recycled materials while at the same time requiring the bottles we use are created more sustainably. Approximately 8% of global petroleum emissions come from plastic production and by reducing the need for plastic production, this legislation curtails emissions and creates new business opportunities for New Yorkers.

**Complete Streets Design.** Municipalities throughout the state struggle to include pedestrian friendly and other smart street designs that would modernize our transportation infrastructure and use alternative transportation methods. The highway and bridge trust fund and the dedicated mass transit trust fund both require all components of a project to have a ten-year service life. Often, pedestrian and cycling infrastructure can be included in a project for little to no additional cost; however, the ten-year service life requirement prevents these features from being included. My bill removes the ten-year service life requirement for these kinds of features. This will benefit walkers, cyclists, the elderly and those with limited mobility, as well as businesses that benefit from additional foot traffic across New York State.

**Right to Refill Act.** I've recently introduced legislation to ensure New York consumers have the right to use refillable, reusable containers, to cut down on plastic pollution and encourage more sustainable practices in our culture. In the United States alone, Americans discard more than 60 million single-use plastic water bottles a day! While the NYS Department of Health has determined that there is no prohibition on food service restaurants utilizing customer's reusable bottles for sanitary reasons, New Yorkers are unclear on what their rights are when it comes to using reusable containers.

## Small Business Roundtable & A.I. Forum



**Showcasing Local Small Businesses at the New S.T.E.A.M. Garden.** I was joined by colleagues Assemblymember John McDonald and Senator Neil Breslin in hosting a Small Business Forum with Anthony Capece, Executive Director of the Central Avenue Business Improvement District (BID), at the new STEAM Garden incubator and co-working space in October. The forum featured a panel of entrepreneurs and small business owners speaking to their experience about what works for small businesses in starting and sustaining a business; advice to help replicate this success; and what challenges continue to exist for small businesses in the State of New York moving



forward. It was insightful and inspiring to hear from so many local entrepreneurs and small businesses that breathe the life into our Main Streets, and I look forward to furthering the relationship between the state government and our local small business community.

**Artificial Intelligence: The Future of Climate, Clean Energy, and Cybersecurity in the Capital Region.** I was proud to host a public forum with Congressman Paul Tonko at UAlbany to examine the potential challenges and opportunities when it comes to the development of artificial intelligence in the Capital Region. Artificial intelligence promises to redefine the workforce and economy of the Capital Region and beyond. As the United States lags in A.I. investment compared to nations like China, the Capital Region emerges as a standout in investing in cutting edge technologies in fields that will be redefined by A.I.: climate change mitigation, clean energy production and cybersecurity. Changes brought by A.I. in these sectors will certainly affect the future of our region's economy in preparing for an intelligent future. Panelists from renowned higher education institutions and experts in the artificial intelligence community, including Andrew Kennedy with the Center for Economic Growth and Jim Malatras with SUNY Empire, were key in identifying the weaknesses and strengths relating to A.I. in the Capital Region and I look forward to working in the state legislature to ensure that New York and the Capital Region are prepared and equipped to utilize artificial intelligence.

## Looking Ahead to 2020

**Meeting Our Climate Goals.** This year New York passed the most aggressive and ambitious climate legislation in the country. The Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act establishes ambitious energy efficiency standards by requiring the state's grid be carbon-neutral by 2050, creates thousands of new green jobs in the clean energy sector, and empowers communities and local governments to deal with new climate realities. As we move into the 2020 legislative session, working with my colleagues to ensure that New York meets our climate goals through a variety of policy measures remains one of my top priorities.

**Times Union Op-Ed: 'Demolish I-787, and the Capital Region Will Flourish.'** Earlier this fall, I authored an opinion piece on rethinking the purpose and role that I-787 plays in the Capital Region's future development and growth. The Governor announced in September that three freeways like I-787 that run through the hearts of Buffalo, Syracuse, and Rochester respectively, would eventually come down in the years to come. I recommend adding I-787 to that list. Downtown Albany and the heart of the Capital Region has been deprived of its historic waterfront and the endless opportunities that come with it. I'm currently drafting legislation for a comprehensive feasibility study on this very issue. To read my full opinion piece: <https://www.timesunion.com/opinion/article/Demolish-I-787-and-the-Capital-Region-will-14474506.php>

**Pre-K Transportation.** This legislation was part of the Assembly's budget proposal, but did not make it into the final budget. The ability to get to and from Pre-K programs remains one of the largest obstacles for families looking to enroll their children in these developmentally critical programs. I have sponsored this legislation for the last six years and will continue to advocate on behalf of it in the upcoming session, as the role a pre-kindergarten education plays is crucial to the long-term success of our students. Transportation or financial burden should not be a barrier to a quality, comprehensive education.



**Senator Hugh Farley Outstanding Advocate Award.** I was honored to receive this award from the New York Library Association (NYLA) highlighting my work in the Assembly to ensure our libraries receive the resources they need, including \$20 million in funding secured this year for capital (physical) improvements at libraries around the state.



**Spectrum's 'In Focus' with Solomon Syed.** I was happy to join 'In Focus' host Solomon Syed once again this Fall to discuss breast cancer awareness in October and what the state legislature is doing to improve women's health and breast cancer outcomes in the long-term future.

# Recycling and Zero Waste Practices 101

Wondering how to reduce your carbon footprint and reduce waste but don't know where to start? Here are some tips to help you live a more sustainable, zero waste lifestyle:

## Reject what you don't need.

- Reject single-use plastics and other promotional items that quickly end up in the trash and our environment.

## Reduce what you have.

- Consider transitioning your home's power supply to come from renewable resources such as solar or geothermal heat pumps.

## Reuse what you can.

- Bring a refillable water bottle with you or coffee container wherever you go.
- Bring a reusable food container to take leftovers home in, or to the grocery store.
- Recycle or compost what you can't.
- Many of your electronic appliances and products must be brought to a certified collection site for electronic waste. To find a complete list of Capital Region electronic waste collection sites, visit: <http://www.albanynyrecycles.com/electronics-recycling/>

				
<b>CARDBOARD</b> Lightweight Cardboard (Cereal & Food Boxes) Corrugated Cardboard Pizza Boxes	<b>PAPER</b> Newspaper & Inserts Junk Mail, Circulars, Magazines & Catalogs Phone & Paperback Books Brown Grocery Bags Milk, Juice & Broth Cartons	<b>PLASTIC</b> Plastic Bottles & Containers Milk & Water Jugs Cottage Cheese, Yogurt & Pudding Cup Containers Soap & Detergent Containers	<b>METAL</b> Food & Beverage Cans Deposit Cans Clean Aluminum Foil Aluminum Plates & Trays Empty Aerosol Cans Metal Lids	<b>GLASS</b> Green, Amber & Clear Containers Canning Jars Liquor & Wine Bottles Food & Beverage Containers
<b>DO NOT INCLUDE:</b> Wax, Plastic, Styrofoam or Metal Coated Cardboard	<b>DO NOT INCLUDE:</b> Hard Cover Books, Napkins, Paper Plates or Tissue Paper	<b>DO NOT INCLUDE:</b> Plastic Bags, Styrofoam Containers, Toys, Motor Oil Bottles, Prescription Bottles or Clothes Hangers	<b>DO NOT INCLUDE:</b> Propane Tanks, Metal-Cardboard Containers (Cocoa & Motor Oil), Clothes Hangers, Silverware, Small Appliances or Paint Cans	<b>DO NOT INCLUDE:</b> Broken Glass, Drinking Glasses, Ovenware or Ceramics, Dishes, Mirrors, Window Glass or Light Bulbs

- Compost your outdoor and other waste when possible. To learn more about composting in our area visit: <http://www.albanynyrecycles.com/compost-facility/>

## Revise policies and practices.

- Advocate – urge your local officials to adopt sustainable recycling and zero waste policies.
- Educate – your family, friends, coworkers, and peers on how collective individual action can enact significant change and result in a more sustainable culture and society.

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**Patricia A. FAHY**

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