



Assemblymember PATRICIA A. FAHY



109th Assembly District

@PatriciaFahy109 @AssemblymemberPatriciaFahy

@AssemblywomanPatFahy **Medium** <https://patfahy109.medium.com>

Summer 2021

We are finally emerging from the public health crisis of the last year in New York, and I'm proud to have supported the actions of the NYS Assembly Majority on a number of important policy items to help bolster our economic recovery moving forward as we seek to build back better across the state and here in the Capital Region.

Addressing the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on our local and state economy, small businesses, and workers continues with the opening of New York's Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) for renters, and small landlords, and the NYS COVID-19 Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program. You can find assistance on accessing these programs on page 4.

The legislature passed a number of critically important bills that I've introduced, including landmark 'Gun Industry Liability Law' legislation, increased busing access for K-12 students, extending open streets for continued outdoor and sidewalk dining, and more. While we adjourned without taking action on my Right to Repair legislation extending alcohol to go and direct shipping for craft

beverages, I look forward to addressing this and other unfinished business with my colleagues in the Assembly and Senate as soon as we are able.

I am honored to represent each of you in the New York State Assembly, and I remain committed to ensuring the Capital Region and our local economy emerges from this crisis stronger and more vibrant than ever.



Sign up for our weekly email-blasts that we have on each newsletter by visiting:
nyassembly.gov/mem/Patricia-Fahy/news

Ending the 2021 Legislative Session: Wins and Work Left to Do

The Assembly and Senate continued building on historic wins from this year's final budget to assist New York's small businesses, renters/tenants, homeowners, small landlords, and essential workers to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. The state legislature acted on critical pieces of legislation to ensure New York's recovery continues from the bottom up. The Assembly and Senate took nation-leading action to aggressively combat gun violence and to create an opioid settlement recovery fund, and extend the popular 'municipal open streets' program. I'm proud of what we've accomplished this year and I'm committed to continuing the hard work of strengthening our forecasted recovery in the months to come.



Delivering Historic State Aid and Education Funding for Our Public Schools: I joined State Senator Michelle Hinchey, administrators, faculty, and staff from GCSD in Guilderland in May to announce historic levels of funding for our public school students in the final 2021 state budget. Moreover, for the first time in over a decade, the state budget fully funds Foundation Aid throughout New York State over the next three years.

Passing the Nation's First-Ever 'Gun Industry Liability Law' + Continuing to Crack Down on Gun Violence



Floor Debate: On the Assembly floor, I defended my first-in-the-nation legislation with Senator Zellnor Myrie to finally hold gun companies accountable for their misconduct that leads to the flow of illegal firearms into our communities here in New York State, for more than two hours. It passed both houses of the state legislature this year.

This year, I introduced landmark and first-in-the-nation legislation with Senator Zellnor Myrie to hold the gun industry liable for reckless or negligent conduct that supplies the flow of illegal firearms onto our streets. The continued influx of illegal guns into New York State, otherwise known as the 'Iron Pipeline', continues to exacerbate surges in gun violence both Upstate and downstate — 75% of all guns used in shootings and violent crimes in New York are trafficked in from other states, according to the NYS Attorney General's Office.

- The gun industry is largely immune from civil liability when it comes to industry recklessness or negligence thanks to a 2005 federal law known as the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA). Passing this first-in-the-nation legislation could hold gun companies that flood bad actors and corrupt dealers accountable when their products are systemically sold in a manner that violates New York's public nuisance laws.
- Additionally, this legislation enables families of victims, local governments, and more to potentially bring civil lawsuits against gun companies who violate this. I was proud to partner with nationally-recognized gun violence prevention advocates such as Moms Demand Action, the Brady Campaign, Everytown for Gun Safety, and Senate sponsor Zellnor Myrie.
- In addition to passing this legislation, the legislature also approved a bill prohibiting possession, use, and production of 'Ghost Guns', which are unserialized firearms typically assembled from various parts, including unfinished frames or receivers. We also took action on requiring microstamping of semiautomatic pistol ammunition, expanded upon 'Red Flag' court orders, and more to continue New York's proud record of a strong, multifaceted approach to preventing gun violence.

2021 Legislative Accomplishments - Continued

Keeping Students Safe: A.3093/S.1925

After years of hard work, my legislation with Senator Robert Jackson passed this year to ensure that students across New York who currently walk to school in potentially dangerous conditions are given access to safe transportation. The bill expands the definition of ‘child safety zones’ and allows state funds to reimburse school districts that provide transportation within 1.5 miles of a school when there are unsafe conditions. Lack of accessible, safe transportation can drive adverse student experiences and lead to disparate outcomes in attendance, academic results, and more. I’m proud to have gotten this legislation passed this year and look forward to it being signed into law by the Governor.

Extending the Popular ‘Municipal Open Streets’ Program to Help Small Businesses: A.7733/S.6353-A

The state legislature also passed a bill, now signed into law, I sponsored with Senator Roxanne Persaud that extends the popular ‘open streets’ dining program for restaurants to utilize sidewalk and street space for seating. Not only has this initiative helped hundreds of small, locally-owned businesses remain open, it’s also proved a popular boon to our Main Streets and local economies. This legislation furthers our commitment to ensuring the economic recovery of New York State’s Main Streets, especially the restaurant industry, which was hit particularly hard by the pandemic’s economic downturn.

Creating an Opioid Settlement Fund for Long-Term Addiction Rehabilitation and Treatment: A.6395-B/S.7194

One of the most important pieces of legislation the state legislature passed this year creates an opioid settlement fund from lawsuits brought against pharmaceutical companies who were found to have knowingly fed the national opioid epidemic over the last decade. By requiring these funds be spent on long-term rehabilitation and treatment for those struggling with addiction, we’re ensuring that the companies who helped drive this crisis and its human toll are held accountable for their role in evading a solution.

Improving Early Voting Accessibility in NYS: A.5424-A/S.4306

The Assembly and Senate also took action to ensure that every valid vote cast is counted, by streamlining the process Boards of Election use to count absentee ballots, and updating the process for which candidates and courts use when challenging ballots. These pieces of legislation underscore an ongoing effort to modernize and upgrade New York’s voting rules.

In addition, the state legislature extended the hours of operation for early voting days that fall on weekends and holidays to at least eight hours from the currently required five, and requires counties that have populations less than 500,000 to have one early voting site for every 30,000 registered voters. When we make it easier for voters to participate in our political process, our democracy is strengthened.

In November this year, voters in New York State will also have an opportunity to approve a constitutional amendment passed by the state legislature last year at the ballot box that would authorize no excuse-absentee voting for local, state, and federal elections for every voter.

Alcohol-To-Go: A.3116

As sponsor of the legislation to extend the alcohol-to-go provisions for restaurants and direct shipping for the craft beverage industry (A.3116, Fahy), it’s truly disappointing the legislature did not act on this issue as it will only hinder the recovery for these industries. Not only were these provisions extremely popular with 78% of New Yorkers supporting a permanent extension, it served as an important financial lifeline for small, locally-owned restaurants in particular, as well as the burgeoning craft beverage industry. I look forward to acting on this issue in the legislature with my colleagues as soon as possible. We cannot leave these industries dangling – especially now.



Signed Into Law: Moms Demand Action advocates and other gun violence prevention supporters joined Senator Zellnor Myrie and I for the signing of our gun industry liability law, and I thank them for their advocacy throughout the legislative session on this landmark bill.

Expanding Albany’s Residential Parking Permit Program: A.3058/S.6428

The Assembly and Senate passed legislation I sponsor with Senator Neil D. Breslin authorizing a significant expansion of Albany’s Residential Parking Permit System! To address local residents’ concerns and an unintended impact on the availability of parking spots in residential areas and streets, this bill authorizes radius expansion from 3/4 mile(s) to 1 mile(s), makes the program permanent, and raises the total number of available spots. Retiring Albany Common Council Member Richard Conti was instrumental in crafting this solution and I commend him for his work on this legislation.

Conservation Easement Agreements Coming to Guilderland: A.7096/S.6469

Under legislation I sponsored with Senator Michelle Hinchey that was signed into law, the Town of Guilderland will be authorized to allow for tax benefits to landowners who conserve their land through a conservation easement agreement. This new, optional tax exemption will help incentivize property owners in Guilderland to protect their land from development and further facilitate the Town’s ongoing effort to do so in a comprehensive and strategic manner. Conserving open space continues to be a primary concern for many municipalities throughout the Capital Region and New York State, and plays an important role in protecting local ecosystems, town character, and in fighting climate change.



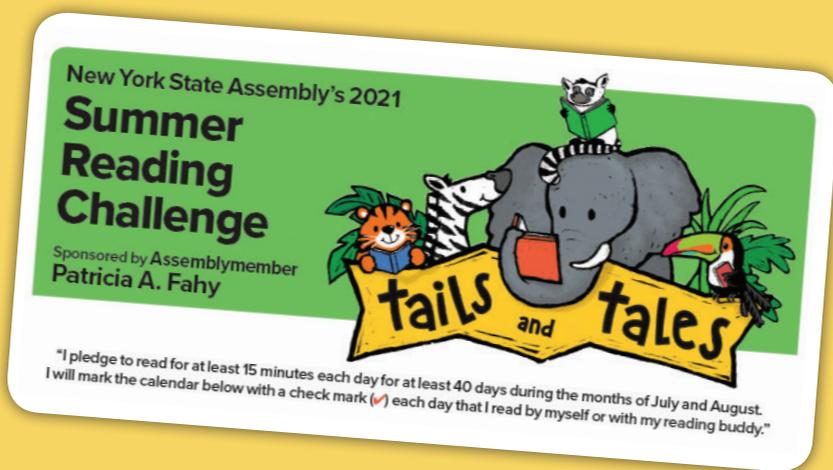
Touring UAlbany ETEC Building with Senator Hinchey, President Havidan Rodriguez

I’m proud to support the Capital Region’s local universities and colleges, including the University at Albany, and toured its new ETEC building and complex with Senator Michelle Hinchey to learn more about the atmospheric and meteorological impact the facility stands to make.

Assemblymember Fahy's 2021 Summer Reading Challenge

The month of July begins the 109th District's 2021 Summer Reading Challenge! Students should read for at least 15 minutes for at least 40 days during the months of July and August! The fillable calendar and completion form can be downloaded here: <https://nyassembly.gov/mem/Patricia-Fahy/story/97801>

When your student has finished the challenge, either email a photo/scan of the completed information form to fahyp@nyassembly.gov or mail it to our office at the address listed! **Happy reading!**



Feature: NEW Mobile Office Hours for 2021!

NEW: This summer, join my office staff for our Mobile Office Hours at locations around the 109th District, for assistance related to:

- Rental Assistance
- Electronic Applications
- Unclaimed Funds
- Help Navigating State Agencies
- Unemployment Insurance
- Legislative Updates
- Funding for Small Businesses
- Learning More About What Resources Are Available to You

Hours and locations for August and September are forthcoming. E-mail or call our office with any questions!

Assemblymember Patricia Fahy's Mobile Office Hours



At our mobile office hours, my office staff is able to help you with:

- Rental Assistance
- Electronic Applications
- Unclaimed Funds
- Help Navigating State Agencies
- Unemployment Insurance
- Legislative Updates
- Funding for Small Businesses
- Learn More About What Resources Are Available to You

Or connect you to service organizations who are able to assist you better.

JULY 2021 HOURS

DAY	TIME	LOCATION
Friday, 7/2	10a - 1p	Washington Ave. Branch, Albany Public Library
Friday, 7/9	12p - 3p	Pine Hills Branch, Albany Public Library
Friday, 7/23	11a - 1p	Altamont Free Library
Thursday, 7/29	3p - 6:30p	Bach Branch, Albany Public Library

AUGUST + SEPTEMBER HOURS COMING SOON

ASSEMBLYMEMBER PATRICIA FAHY
ROOM 452, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ALBANY, NY 12208
fahyp@nyassembly.gov | (518) 455-4178



CDTA's SCOOT: Electric scooters are coming to the Capital Region via the CDTA's new e-scooter program, launching in late July! Pictured: Carm Basile, CDTA Executive Director, Assemblymember John McDonald

Reflecting on Juneteenth

Why is This New Federal Holiday so Significant?

Celebrated on June 19th of every year since 1865, this day commemorates the end of slavery in the United States over 150 years ago, when the last slaves in the rebelling states were freed. New York State made this a state holiday last year and President Biden recently signed legislation creating the newest federal holiday on Juneteenth to commemorate its significance. While we know that inequalities in our broader society are pervasive and require real policy solutions, it is critical we better integrate the story and history of black Americans into our nation's broader and collective historical narrative.

Looking to the Future: Work Left to Do

Despite the critical pieces of legislation passed by the state legislature this year; there were important omissions and policy areas I continue to plan addressing with my Assembly and legislative colleagues. I look forward to addressing missed opportunities in the areas of climate change, wetland protection, and much more.

Progress on New York's 'Right to Repair': A.7006/S.4104

I'm proud to sponsor the Fair Repair Act in the Assembly which would give consumers the ability to repair their digital and other electronic devices at independent shops by requiring parent companies like Apple to provide shops with necessary parts and information they currently lack. 'Right to Repair' would save consumers hundreds of dollars lost to purchasing completely new devices, or costly repairs through the parent company, thereby saving every family in New York an average of \$300 each year. While the Senate passed this legislation for the first time, it failed to do so in the Assembly and I look forward to moving this bill in the next legislative session.

Going Back at 30x30: A.5390-B/S.6191

Scientists warn that in order to combat climate change, at least 30% of global land, oceans, and waterways must be protected or preserved by 2030 in order to prevent the collapse of certain ecosystems, and protect our biosphere. I'm proud to sponsor legislation to make '30x30' an official, strategic goal of New York State and while the Senate passed this legislation this year and the Assembly did not, I look forward to working with environmental advocates and my legislative colleagues to get this done next year.

Getting There on the 'Idaho Stop' A.3104-A/S.920-A

Improving overall cyclist safety on our roadways and upgrading our transportation infrastructure to include features that protect and encourage multi-modal or alternative modes of transportation remains one of my top priorities, and I look forward to continuing to work on legislation I sponsor to enact the 'Idaho Stop' law in New York, helping cyclists to share roadways by giving them greater flexibility at intersections to yield safely at stop signs, rather than having to make a hard stop. It would also allow cyclists to treat a red light as a stop sign.

Updated State and Local Resources

My office is always available as a resource to you and your families to help with unemployment insurance, DMVs, housing services, and more. Please contact us at fahyp@nyassembly.gov.

Unemployment Insurance

Call 1-888-209-8124 or visit labor.ny.gov/ if you have questions or need help with your UI claim, please don't hesitate to reach out to my office.

NYS Mental Health Hotline

1-844-863-9314

New York State Domestic Violence Hotline

1-800-942-6906

Free Legal Resources

Legal Aid Society: 518-462-6765

Housing and Eviction Support

518-436-8997: Utalbany.org

COVID-19 Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program
APPLY HERE: nysmallbusinessrecovery.com
ELIGIBILITY: Small businesses and small not-for-profit arts and cultural organizations are eligible to apply for pandemic-related expenditures from the last year.
FUNDS CAN HELP BY: Grants could be used to cover various business costs including payroll, rent, mortgage, property and school taxes, insurance, utilities and pandemic-related expenditures that were necessary to protect the health and safety of workers and consumers.
If you need assistance, please contact my office at: kuleszam@nyassembly.gov OR (518) 455-4178.

New York State's 2021 Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)
APPLY HERE: otda.ny.gov/ERAP
ELIGIBILITY: Household must be at or below 80% area median income (AMI) either currently or in 2020, must be behind on rent, and a member of the household must have experienced financial hardship due to COVID-19.
ERAP CAN HELP BY: Providing to 12 months of back rent accrued since March 13, 2020, up to 3 months of future rent, and up to 12 months of utility and gas payments since March 13, 2020, if you qualify.
If you need assistance, please contact my office at: kuleszam@nyassembly.gov OR (518) 455-4178.



Looking to the Future: Work Left to Do

Almost there: While the State Senate passed the Fair Repair Act I sponsor with Senator Neil Breslin for the first time, the Assembly did not and I look forward to working with my colleagues to get this done. Pictured: Senator Michelle Hinchey, Senator Neil Breslin, Assemblymember John McDonald, and Gay Gordon-Byrne of the Fair Repair Coalition.

New York State Assembly • Albany, New York 12248



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**Patricia A.
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Summer 2021

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Empire State Trail

Looking for a fun and safe outdoor activity this summer? The Empire State Trail was launched to promote outdoor recreation, support our communities, and increase tourism. Remember, the safest place to be in a pandemic is outside!

For more information:
<https://empiretrail.ny.gov/>