

Assemblymember

# DAVID I. WEPRIN



## Reports to the Community

JUNE 2022

Serving the partial or entire communities of:

Briarwood, Bellerose, Bellerose Manor, Fresh Meadows, Glen Oaks, Hillcrest, Hollis Hills, Holliswood, Jamaica Estates, Jamaica Hills, Oakland Gardens, Queens Village, Richmond Hill, South Richmond Hill, and Utopia



### A Message From DAVID I. WEPRIN

*Dear Friends and Neighbors,*

*I hope this message finds you and your loved ones safe and well. The 2022 Legislative Session is winding down and is scheduled to conclude on June 2nd. I am pleased to report that this year we made historic investments in the next generation of New Yorkers by funding both primary and higher education, including \$1.1 billion for Universal Pre-Kindergarten and \$60 million in state operating support funds for SUNY and CUNY. Throughout the COVID19 pandemic we've relied on our hospitals and frontline healthcare workers to support us and sacrifice for our wellbeing, and this budget makes critical investments in our healthcare infrastructure. We will raise the home care worker minimum wage by \$3 over the next two years, while adding \$904 million in funding to New York's Medicaid program. We are investing an additional \$800 million for safety-net and public hospitals, and \$100 million for distressed hospitals, \$50 million of which will go to New York City facilities including Jamaica Hospital Medical Center.*

*Here in the 24th NYS Assembly District, my team and I are pleased to continue providing quality constituent services to all of our residents and neighbors. Together we have celebrated great successes and overcome many serious challenges. My District Offices, located at 185-06 Union Turnpike in Fresh Meadows and 111-12 Atlantic Avenue #5 in Richmond Hill, are open 5 days a week from 9am to 5pm. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us by phone, mail, email, or an in-person visit. You can reach my Fresh Meadows District Office at 718-454-3027 and my Richmond Hill District Office at 718-805-2381. Or email me at [weprind@nyassembly.gov](mailto:weprind@nyassembly.gov) for assistance.*

*It is my continued honor to serve the people of the 24th Assembly District. While the map of the district will officially change at the start of next year, 2023, please know that whether you remain in my district or not, you can always reach out to me if you require assistance.*

*Sincerely yours,*

David I. Weprin  
Member  
New York State Assembly

## Standing with Chancellor Banks for Gifted & Talented Education



I attended a press conference in the Blue Room at City Hall and stood alongside Mayor Eric Adams and our new NYC Department of Education Chancellor, David Banks, to advocate for the expansion of Gifted & Talented Education programs. I have strongly supported gifted & talented education programs and I am very pleased to see this administration reexamining the program with an emphasis on expansion and improving accessibility for all communities in New York City. Over 1,000 seats will be added in the upcoming school year across the city. It was a pleasure meeting Chancellor Banks and I look forward to working with him to serve the students, parents, teachers, and staff of New York City.

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## Town Hall Meeting with Congressman Meeks at York College

I joined Congressman Gregory Meeks, Chairman of the US House Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a town hall at York College. I am firmly committed to transparency in government and I believe that public gatherings like this are a great way to connect with constituents and are crucial to our democratic process. After meeting for a brief reception in York College's impressive Art Gallery, we engaged with attendees on matters ranging from international relations to local trash pickups. I was happy to add some context regarding the New York State Budget, which has been supplemented this year with an influx of federal dollars to be allocated to various projects. I want to thank President Berenecea Johnson Eanes and her entire team at York College for their hospitality in hosting us and for their great work and steadfast dedication to academic excellence even under the difficult circumstances of the COVID19 pandemic.



*York College students joined President Berenecea Johnson Eanes, Congressman Gregory Meeks, State Senator Leroy Comrie, and me for a photograph in the Art Gallery.*

## Welcoming Visitors in Albany from CUNY

The Legislative Office Building is always a center of activity during session, with activists and advocates for many different causes stopping by my office to chat. It is my policy that I will meet with anyone who wants to meet, and it was a pleasure to connect with representatives from my district who were fighting for greater investments in the City University of New York (CUNY) and the State University of New York (SUNY). I believe that our public colleges are a model for the rest of the country, and we made historic funding increases this year with investments including \$60 million in state operating support funds for SUNY and \$60 million for CUNY, as well as \$159 million to hire additional full-time faculty at four-year colleges and community colleges. The Assembly Majority has long been dedicated to making college affordable. This budget also increases state support in operating revenue to raise the amount campuses receive for Excelsior Scholarship recipients by \$13.7 million for SUNY state operated campuses, \$2.1 million for SUNY community colleges and \$2.8 for CUNY senior colleges, for a total of \$18.6 million.



*Visiting in the LOB with advocates for higher education.*

## St. John's University Students Visit My Fresh Meadows District Office

It was a pleasure to welcome a delegation of students from St. John's University to my Fresh Meadows District Office. These committed young folks briefed my staff and me about a bill that is up for consideration this session and I gave them advice on best practices to push this legislation toward passage. One of the most rewarding parts of my role as Assemblyman is the opportunity to meet with the leaders of tomorrow!



*Welcoming a delegation of St. John's University students to my District Office in Fresh Meadows.*

## Gathering at Townsend Harris High School

I had a great visit to Townsend Harris High School during their 2022 legislative breakfast, tour, and student roundtable. We were greeted by dozens of students who held group discussions for our edification on various literary works they had read. I was very impressed by the thoroughness and insightfulness of all the young scholars involved! It is always refreshing to meet with the next generation of leaders and I was pleased to answer questions about our state and local government.



*Speaking with students at Townsend Harris High School.*



## Can Drive with the Jamaica Muslim Center and India Home

Food insecurity is a problem across New York, and my office hosted a Can Drive with multiple elected and community partners across Eastern Queens to do our part in alleviating hunger. After weeks of collecting nonperishable items, we gathered at Jamaica Muslim Center to hand out cans and hot food that was provided by India Home. It is so important to give back to the community and help in a tangible way. Jamaica Muslim Center has graciously opened their doors to not only the Muslim community at large but to all who come to their doors.



*I gathered at the Jamaica Muslim Center in partnership with India Home, the Met Council, and members of the State Senate and Assembly.*

## Welcoming Advocates from Korean Community Services

Many fantastic visitors come through our doors in Albany, and I'm always grateful to meet with the passionate advocates who help keep legislators like me informed on issues of concern. Representatives from Korean Community Services stopped by my office and shared many moving stories from their members. Too many New Yorkers struggle to make ends meet, which is why we need to pass the #Coverage4All Act. I am committed to fighting for the health of all New Yorkers – including the undocumented and uninsured.



*Meeting with constituents in the Legislative Office Building.*

## ITV USA 6th Anniversary Banquet

I attended the ITV USA 6th Anniversary Banquet as a "Guest of Honor" this year. ITV USA has served the Islamic community in the New York Metropolitan area for 6 years, and we came together to celebrate their message and to honor their successes. After giving remarks, I presented proclamations to the leadership at ITV USA, lauding their 24/7 outreach to over 2 million viewers. This was a wonderful night of cultural sharing and I look forward to seeing ITV USA grow in the years to come.



*Speaking at the ITV6 Annual Banquet.*

## Proclamations at Queens Center for Progress

I joined many of my colleagues in the city and state government from Queens to honor "Chef of the Year" Rhonda Binda for her community service. I presented her with an Assembly proclamation for her dedication and good works. Queens Centers for Progress provides individualized services and supports to children and adults who have developmental disabilities. I proudly support the goals of Queens Centers for Progress to promote independence, community involvement, and quality of life for people with developmental disabilities!

*Councilman Jim Gennaro, Director of Development at Queens Centers for Progress  
Wendy Phaff Gennaro, Council Member  
Linda Lee, Council Member  
Vickie Paladino, Assemblyman  
David Weprin, Council Member  
Sandra Ung, Council Member  
Shekar Krishnan, and "Chef of the Year" Rhonda Binda.*





## Flag Raising Ceremony with APAG



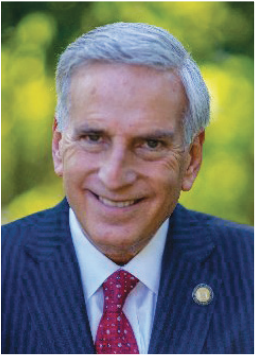
*Gathering with APAG to raise the flags of the United States and Pakistan in friendship.*

I was proud to be a co-sponsor of Assemblymember Nader Sayegh's Resolution commemorating Wednesday, March 23 as Pakistan Day in the State of New York. Coinciding with the adoption of the resolution, I gathered with representatives from the American Pakistani Advocacy Group (APAG) and community leaders for a flag raising ceremony on the West Lawn of the State Capitol. I was honored to commemorate and celebrate Pakistani-American heritage with APAG in Albany.



*Member Nauman Malik, Founder and President Ali Rashid, Comptroller Amin Ghani, Vice President Naveed Chuahdry, and Member Muhammad Rizwan.*

New York State Assembly, Albany, New York 12248



Assemblymember

**DAVID I. WEPRIN**

**Reports to the Community**



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## Meeting with the Consul General of Bangladesh

I was honored to meet with Consul General Dr. Mohammad Monirul Islam and his Counselor, Ayesha Haq, to discuss the welfare of the Bangladesh community in New York and how best to promote and support the culture and traditions of Bangladesh in New York. 2022 is a historic milestone and we commemorated the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the United States and Bangladesh. On March 26th we celebrated Bangladesh Independence and National Day at the Consulate General in Long Island City, Queens. I look forward to working together with the Consulate General and all its staff to serve the Bangladeshi Community in New York.



*Consul General Dr. Mohammad Monirul Islam, Counselor Ayesha Haq, and I discuss issues facing the community.*