



Assemblywoman **Nily Rozic**

Legislative Report



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Dear Neighbor:

I'm proud to report that I sponsored seven bills passed by the Assembly in the 2014 session, and supported many other pieces of legislation that will have a positive impact on our community.

However, there is always more work to be done. Many important pieces of legislation died in the Senate this year—including the **Women's Equality Act**, a ban on **hydrofracking**, and comprehensive **campaign finance reform**. I am committed to resolving these issues next session.

This newsletter will provide you with an update on my work in our district and in the Capitol, as well as information about this year's state budget.

In the meantime, I look forward to seeing you throughout our neighborhood in the coming months.

As always, you can reach me at 718-820-0241 or rozicn@assembly.state.ny.us with any questions or concerns. **I am here to serve you.**

Sincerely,

Investing in Education



Making College Affordable

College affordability is a concern that many families face as they struggle with admission and tuition expenses. I introduced the College Preparation Tax Credit Act, which would allow working and middle class families to qualify for a tax credit for college preparation expenses including applications, admissions tests such as the SAT and ACT, and preparation courses. This initiative is modeled after federal legislation sponsored by Representative Steve Israel.



Minimizing College Debt

This year's budget included an increase in Tuition Assistance Program funding, which provides our students with the financial assistance they need to pursue a higher education. Skyrocketing tuition costs should not preclude students from attending college. In order to secure our economic future, we need to make quality education more affordable for all.



Encouraging Civic Engagement

I sponsored legislation that will empower our young adults by allowing 16 and 17 year olds to serve on our local community boards. This initiative will encourage the next generation of civic-minded leaders to play a role in community planning and advocacy. The bill passed both houses of the legislature.



Securing Vital Funding for STEM

In this year's budget, I helped secure \$8 million for a new Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) scholarship program. The top 10% of high school graduates will be offered full tuition scholarships to any State or City University of New York (SUNY or CUNY) school if they pursue a STEM career in New York for five years upon graduation. This scholarship marks the first statewide financial aid program designed to encourage students to major in engineering and technology. It is based on the Empire Engineer Initiative Act, a financial aid initiative I launched last year with City Comptroller Scott Stringer at Queens College.

Supporting Women's Rights

Limiting the Use of Solitary Confinement

New York's criminal justice system is in desperate need of reform. I drafted and passed legislation that would ban the use of solitary confinement for pregnant women. Restricted access to medical and mental health care is detrimental to these women and their families. While prisoners must pay their debt to society, we need to ensure that treatment is humane, and that pregnant women get the critical care and nutrition a healthy pregnancy requires.

Providing for Women Veterans

I authored and passed legislation that would require the New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs to conduct a study on homeless women veterans and produce appropriate recommendations and solutions. The study would also include cases of military sexual trauma experienced by women veterans. While the population of female veterans in New York is small, the challenges they face after military service are significant. It is our obligation to protect this population who sacrificed so much to defend our nation and provide them with the resources they deserve.



Holding Wireless Companies Accountable

To combat the growing epidemic of domestic violence, the Assembly passed my bill designed to strengthen protections for victims. The bill would allow victims of domestic violence who share a phone contract with their abuser to opt out of their plan without penalty. Through my legislation, we will help victims eliminate one of the numerous challenges they face when trying to sever contact with their batterer.

Supporting Equal Pay Day

Earlier this year, the State Assembly passed a resolution declaring April 8, 2014 as Equal Pay Day. Equal Pay Day promotes action and discussion about gender wage disparity and how it affects New York's women and families. We must do what we can to implement public policies that support working families and correct this pay inequity.



Ensuring the Safety of Foster Care Children

Legislation that I drafted to protect foster children from being placed in unsuitable homes passed this session. The bill would close loopholes in existing law and ensure that children in foster care are under proper guardianship and placed in a safe environment.

Promoting Efficient Government

Two bills that I introduced would make the bidding process for two state agencies, the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation and the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York, more equitable. Modernizing an agency's ability to be more effective and flexible when taking on new projects enhances and improves its investment options. Both pieces of legislation are being sent to the Governor to be signed into law.

Supporting Immigration



Protecting Immigrant Women

Domestic violence is a continuing concern in New York. I introduced legislation that would protect undocumented women who are victims of abuse and sexual assault. It is often the case that immigrant women do not report their abuser out of fear of being deported. My bill would ensure that immigration status does not prohibit any woman from receiving the assistance and protection she needs.



Expanding Language Access

Queens is home to many growing immigrant communities. It is essential that we improve accessibility and connect all residents to services and support. To this end, I drafted a package of bills that would provide language assistance at hospitals, schools and other state entities for those who have limited English proficiency. By providing language assistance, we move one step closer to making state government accessible to everyone it serves.



Keeping the DREAM Alive

All students should have equal opportunity to attend college, regardless of their immigration status. This year I was proud to vote in favor of the DREAM Act and I will continue to push for passage of this legislation next session, adding New York to the growing list of states that offer state financial assistance to all.

Rallying for Immigration Reform

I stood with Representative Steve Israel, State Senator Toby Stavisky, and Assemblymember Ron Kim to call on Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform. Reform of our backward immigration system remains a top priority of mine and I will continue to advocate at the state level for solutions.



Expanding SCRIE/DRIE

Effective July 1, the household income cap for New York City's Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) and Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE) programs increased from \$29,000 to \$50,000. For SCRIE, you must be a rent-regulated tenant, 62-years of age or older, and have a rent amount that exceeds one-third of your household income to be eligible. For DRIE you must be a rent-regulated tenant, receive eligible state or federal disability-related assistance, and have a rent amount that exceeds one-third of your household income to be eligible.



Improving Mass Transit

After standing with Representative Steve Israel and State Senator Tony Avella to call on the MTA to improve mass transit in Northeast Queens, I helped secure \$500,000 in this year's state budget to enhance bus service. The MTA will initiate a year-long study of ways to improve bus service and restore recent service cuts, providing relief to our transit-starved neighborhoods.

Workplace Flexibility and Fair Wages



Addressing the Need for Workplace Flexibility

As family dynamics change and more women join the workforce, the need for flexible workplace arrangements has become more apparent. In response, I introduced “right to request” legislation that creates a safe place for employees to speak with employers about their options without fear of retaliation. I joined City Comptroller Scott M. Stringer to speak about my legislation as he released a report on reshaping the workplace for the 21st Century.



Advocating for Fair Wages

Earlier in the year, I introduced the Fair Wage Act with State Senator Daniel Squadron that would require large employers and chain stores to pay their employees a living wage of \$15 an hour. Ensuring that workers have a decent living wage won't just improve our economy, it is the right thing to do. The legislation would apply to large businesses who have annual gross revenues of at least \$50 million a year and chain stores that have 11 or more locations nationwide.

**Want to intern or volunteer in our community office?
To apply, please contact us at 718-820-0241 or rozicn@assembly.state.ny.us**



Assemblywoman

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Team Nily at Work

Let us know how we can help! My office can assist you with any questions or concerns. We speak multiple languages including: Mandarin, Cantonese, Korean and Spanish.

My office is always looking for interns or volunteers to help out around the office and assist in special projects. Interning here can help students gain valuable experience working in public service. If you are interested in applying to be an intern or volunteer, please contact us!

From left to right: Megan Keane, Community Liaison & Director of Scheduling; Meagan Molina, Legislative Aide; Assemblywoman Nily Rozic; Courtney Cariello, Community Liaison; David Ng, Chief of Staff.