



January 9, 2025

Greetings –

The legislative session kicked off in Albany this week and the first task for the Assembly was to attend to organizational matters so it can move forward with its budget and legislative work including acting to protect our human rights, healthcare, and the environment from harmful actions that may be taken at the federal level.

Appointment to the Chair of Libraries and Education Technology

I am proud to share with you the news that I have been appointed as Chair of the New York State Assembly Standing Committee on Libraries & Education Technology. The Committee has jurisdiction over legislation affecting public, academic, school, and special libraries as well as the administration and funding of libraries and library systems across New York State.

Libraries are among our most vital civic institutions and the 44th District is served by five Brooklyn Public Library branch libraries and the magnificent Central Library at Grand Army Plaza. I am deeply committed to working with all stakeholders to ensure all our libraries continue to thrive and especially excited to work with the library community in strengthening libraries' role in literacy education for children and adults and championing lifelong learning.

Release of the Report of the New York State Dyslexia and Dysgraphia Task Force

At the end of December, the [New York State Dyslexia and Dysgraphia Task Force released its final report](#). The Task Force was established through legislation I authored and sponsored ([A.133/S.2599](#)) and was signed into law by Governor Hochul in December 2023. It was comprised of teachers, school leaders, education experts, and individuals with or family members of people with dyslexia or dysgraphia and met throughout the summer and fall of 2024 and held three public hearings taking testimony from over one hundred members of the public. The Task Force Report includes fourteen recommendations pertaining to screening methods, reading interventions and other educational supports for dyslexia and dysgraphia for students in kindergarten through grade five.

As those of you who have been following my work have seen, since taking office in 2017, I have spearheaded multiple efforts to address New York's childhood literacy crisis and the special challenges facing children with dyslexia and their families. I am very encouraged by the work of the Task Force and the critical recommendations the Report includes. This report

coupled with the recent enactment of my [Dyslexia Diagnosis Act \(A.2898/S.5481\)](#) marks real progress. I want to especially note the call for the State to create and appropriately fund a Center for Dyslexia and Dysgraphia, maintain an updated definition of dyslexia and dysgraphia that will serve as a guidepost for policy, to require universal screening for all students in grades K-5 for reading and writing difficulties, and that the State should set standards for teacher preparation programs and certifications that address dyslexia and dysgraphia.

I believe that to ensure that the State maintains best practices over time the recommended Center for Dyslexia and Dysgraphia should be enshrined in State law and will be introducing legislation to that effect this session. If established with a strong mandate and appropriate support, such a center will help thousands of children learn to read and become successful students.

I look forward to continuing to work with residents of my district and from across the State to ensure that all children get the education they deserve and are entitled to.

[Read the final report of the New York State Dyslexia and Dysgraphia Task Force here.](#)

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

-Bobby

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