



Assemblyman CHARLES D. FALL



Legislative and Community Report - 61st Assembly District - Spring 2019

Dear Neighbors,

It has been a productive legislative session thus far, and I am honored to work for each of you in Albany as your representative in the New York State Assembly. This edition of the Legislative and Community Report includes updates on the 2019 Assembly budget and legislative accomplishments, along with the issues I will continue to advocate for on your behalf. I am also pleased to share some of my experiences engaging with community members in the district.

*Charles D. Fall
Member of Assembly, 61st District*

Do you want to receive important legislative and community updates about news and events digitally? Please call my office at (718) 442-9932 to join my email list for weekly reports to stay informed about the changes and developments in the Capitol and on the North Shore!

Assemblyman Fall Committee Assignments

- Chair, Subcommittee on Consumer Fraud Protection
- Member, Committee on Aging
- Member, Committee on Cities
- Member, Committee on Consumer Affairs and Protection
- Member, Committee on Corporations, Authorities, and Commissions
- Member, Committee on Tourism, Parks, Arts and Sports Development
- Member of the 2019 Mental Hygiene Joint Budget Conference Committee
- Member, Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian Legislative Caucus

Assemblyman Fall Authors Law to Protect Minors From Living With Registered Sex Offenders

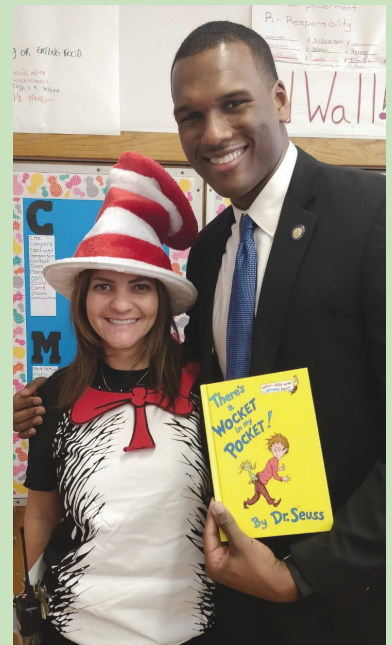
On January 18th, I introduced my first piece of legislation, Marie's Law, which will amend the domestic relations law to enhance the standard for courts when granting someone custody of minors who have been victims of sexual abuse. Currently, courts decide on what is "in the best interest of the child" which is the standard with regard to most judgments involving children.

The bill was introduced in response to a 12-year-old Staten Island girl who was sexually abused by a family member. Despite this family member having been convicted and served time, once his supervision ended, the abuse sadly began again, due to a loophole in the law. Barring sexual offenders from living in a household with a child will better protect them from such threats.

Marie's Law will ensure that once sex offenders are off supervision, courts, law enforcement, child protective services, medical facilities, and sex offender registry staff work together to prevent additional acts against their victims.

Rape, sexual abuse, and misconduct towards any individual are heinous, especially towards a child. As a lawmaker, I will do everything I can to keep our children safe and protected.

My School Visits to P.S. 31, P.S. 78, and Port Richmond High School



I visited public schools across the North Shore and I distributed student of the month awards. I commend the hardworking teachers for their commitment to our kids.

2019 New York State Budget and Legislative Highlights

After months of hard work and negotiations with the Governor and my colleagues in the State Assembly and Senate, I'm pleased to report the 2019 state budget has passed on time. Over the last four months, we have also enacted crucial legislation that will expand voting rights, prohibit discrimination based on gender identity or expression, and enforce stricter gun control policies to protect our communities. Below are some of the highlights of this year's budget and recent legislation addressing the most pressing issues across the state.

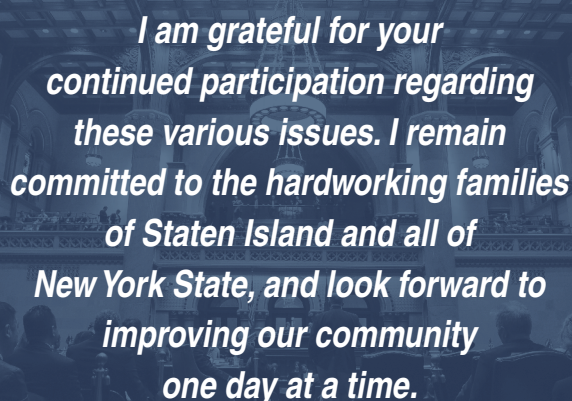
Education Funding and Equity

K-12 Funding. An increase of over \$1 billion in education aid will bring total education funding to a record \$27.9 billion, with over 70% of the increased funding going to low income districts. School districts would be required to report how they provide appropriate funding for certain schools.

Expanding Universal Pre-Kindergarten. The budget includes an additional \$15 million investment in pre-kindergarten to expand high-quality, half-day, and full-day pre-kindergarten instruction for 3,000 three- and four-year-old children in high-need school districts, serving more than 123,000 students.

Expanding Empire State After-School Programs. In order to ensure that every child who needs a safe place to go after school is provided one, the budget includes an additional \$10 million to create 6,250 new after-school slots in high-need communities across the state. This additional funding will prioritize areas with high levels of gang involvement, and will focus on serving homeless students and other students who may not have a safe place to go after school. These additional slots will bring the total number of students served to 80,000.

Excelsior Scholarship. As the state's successful free tuition program enters its third year, SUNY and CUNY students whose families make up to \$125,000 annually will now be eligible to apply for tuition-free college.



I am grateful for your continued participation regarding these various issues. I remain committed to the hardworking families of Staten Island and all of New York State, and look forward to improving our community one day at a time.

MTA Funding and Taxes

Verrazzano Resident Toll Freeze. Assembly Speaker Carl E. Heastie, Assemblyman Michael Cusick, Senator Savino, and I were able to secure an agreement with Governor Cuomo to keep the Verrazzano Resident Toll at \$5.50 despite previous plans to raise the resident toll to \$5.90.

Housing

Affordable Housing and Homelessness Initiative. The 2019 budget continues the \$20 billion, comprehensive five-year investment in affordable housing, supportive housing, and related services to provide New Yorkers with safe and secure housing. This investment is creating and preserving over 100,000 units of affordable housing and 6,000 units of supportive housing. Funding includes \$3.5 billion in capital resources, \$8.6 billion in State and Federal tax credits and other allocations, and \$8 billion to support the operation of shelters, supportive housing units, and rental subsidies.

Immigration

José R. Peralta DREAM Act. There is a vital need for higher education opportunities for all young people, to enhance their lives and our communities. The NYS Dream Act grants additional youth access to financial assistance opportunities that will enable them to earn degrees, access highly skilled employment, and support their local economies across New York. The budget implements and fully funds the José R. Peralta DREAM Act for \$27 million.

Legal Services for New York's Immigrant Communities. The budget provides \$10 million to support the expansion of the first-in-the-nation Liberty Defense Project (LDP). Established in 2017, the Liberty Defense Project has provided more than 25,000 critical legal services to immigrants and communities targeted by federal immigration policies. The LDP expansion includes Project Golden Door, which will provide crucial services to immigrant children and families in New York, and a Regional Rapid Response program to quickly respond with effective legal services on the ground, including targeted raids and arbitrary arrests by ICE. These enhancements build on the network of services currently being provided by current LDP partners and create more uniform legal coverage for immigrants across the state, particularly in underserved communities.

Health and Mental Hygiene

Fighting to End the Opioid Epidemic. Opioid addiction has affected many communities across New York, especially here on Staten Island. The approved budget makes treatment more accessible and affordable by requiring minimum coverage standards of health plans; prohibiting the denial of medically necessary treatment; prohibiting multiple co-payments per day, and requiring behavioral health co-payments to be equal to primary care co-payments. These changes will eliminate administrative barriers and financial burdens that can stand in the way of treatment for New Yorkers struggling with addiction.

Codifying the Affordable Care Act into Law. The codification of key ACA provisions and the New York State Health Exchange into law ensures that, regardless of federal level health care modifications, these key provisions are protected in New York State.

Reducing Youth Tobacco Use. The legislature voted to raise the age for purchase of tobacco products from 18 to 21. In an effort to cut down on tobacco use by New York's youth and provide greater regulation to the industry, the enacted 2019 budget imposes a tax on e-cigarettes and require e-cigarettes to be sold by licensed retailers.

2020 Complete Census Count

The budget authorizes up to \$20 million for FY 2020 for outreach and education efforts to ensure all New Yorkers are counted as part of the census.

Significant Legislation Passed

Election Reform Bills. New York is now the 38th state to establish early voting. I was proud to vote in support of this legislation, which not only provides voters with 10 days of early voting prior to an election, but also requires officials to automatically update people's voter registrations when they move, and permits 16- and 17-year-olds to pre-register to vote in preparation for their 18th birthday. Additionally, state and federal primaries are now required to be scheduled on the same day, saving millions of taxpayer dollars and potentially boosting voter turnout.

The Child Victim's Act (A02683). I voted in support of The Child Victim's Act (CVA) which aids survivors of childhood sexual abuse. The CVA increases the statute of limitations for cases of child sexual abuse, allowing survivors more time to pursue legal recourse as adults.

Red Flag Bill (A02689). I voted to establish extreme risk protection orders that may prohibit a person from purchasing, possessing, or attempting to purchase or possess a firearm, rifle, or shotgun.

The Impact of Congestion Pricing of Staten Island

New York City will soon become the first U.S. city to implement congestion pricing. Congestion pricing is the use of electronic tolling to charge vehicles that enter certain areas during heavy traffic hours. This plan aims to reduce traffic in the Central Business District of Manhattan (defined as South of 60th Street), while also generating revenue to maintain the City's subway system. With more drivers and commuters on the roads and in the stations each year, the MTA requires the proper funds to properly function today and build for the future. However, with Staten Islanders already suffering from long and expensive commutes, it is crucial that action is taken to address the needs and concerns of residents. I am working with the MTA and city Department of Transportation to guarantee Island residents receive a 10-year cap on the Verrazzano bridge toll price, commuters will receive credits within the zone area to eliminate double fees, and that ample revenue from the congestion pricing is invested into transportation infrastructure on Staten Island.



North Shore Homeless Shelter Plan

According to the New York City Department of Homeless Services, there are an estimated 1,200 Staten Islanders living in shelters city-wide.

In addition to the supportive housing funding I voted to include in this year's budget, I have also co-sponsored several pieces of legislation that would expand the resources afforded to homeless youth and institute home stability support programs to provide financial subsidies to reduce homeless.

The administration's Turning the Tide initiative seeks to provide families and individuals with quality shelters in communities in proximity to their schools, place of employment, medical providers, and houses of worship, all to ease the transition from shelter to stability. However, this borough-based plan in action has excluded community involvement that North Shore residents expect and deserve. As we work to find alternatives to affordable housing, I will continue to demand that community residents and elected officials are consulted on the shelter's location, size, and appearance several months in advance.

I stand firmly with the community and believe that 44 Victory Boulevard is an inappropriate location for a shelter on the North Shore because of the strains that this facility may add to the Tompkinsville community and displaced families.

Halting the cycle of homelessness in New York City demands comprehensive initiatives ranging from creating and expanding an affordable housing plan that targets deep, long-term affordability, job training, and employment opportunities, accessible mental health and substance abuse counseling services, removing the strains on

our education system, and sheltering the homeless during such transition periods. Help your neighbors at risk of becoming homeless by telling them about CAMBA Homebase, the City's homelessness prevention program. Contact CAMBA to develop a personalized plan to overcome an immediate housing crisis and achieve housing stability at 718-282-6473.

Assemblyman Fall Responds to Government Shutdown With Bill to Assist Affected Taxpayers

For thirty-five days, thousands of federal employees were furloughed or worked without pay during the longest government shutdown in U.S. history. In response to this, I introduced an act to amend the tax law for taxpayers affected by a federal government shutdown.

Bill A05405 would grant New York State residents affected by a federal government shutdown an automatic tax return extension that would otherwise be due on April 15th. The extension would take affect sixty days from the date the federal government reopens with no penalties or interested imposed on the taxpayer.

Almost 80% of Americans live paycheck to paycheck so it's no surprise that many furloughed federal employees struggled to feed their families as the most recent government shutdown lasted for over a month. It is important that New York State enacts legislation that will guarantee financial assistance to families when faced with a government shutdown.

Assemblyman Fall Honors Virginia Allen, A Member of The Black Angels of Staten Island



The Black Angels of Staten Island were a group of black nurses who risked their own health to provide care for patients suffering from tuberculosis. In 1912, the Sea View Hospital opened and was home to patients with incurable diseases. Black nurses from all over the country heard the call for action, many from the Lincoln Hospital and Harlem Hospital, and came to aid approximately 2,000 patients.

I had the honor of welcoming a surviving black angel, Ms. Virginia Allen to the Assembly chamber. Ms. Allen moved to Sea View from Detroit to attend nursing school and live with her aunt, who also worked as a nurse in Sea View Hospital. At 16, Ms. Allen began her work as a nurse's aide, and along with three other nurses, cared for about 30 patients, and 5 newborn babies in the children's wing. At Sea View, she pursued a career in surgical nursing at three different hospitals, while also working as a business representative for two unions. She retired from the Staten Island University Hospital in 1995. I would like to extend my gratitude and appreciation to Ms. Allen and her fellow angels for providing such an honorable service, not only to Staten Island, but to mankind.

Citywide Community Resources

Youth Opportunities

NYC Learn & Earn is a year-round program for low-income high school juniors and seniors at risk of dropping out of school. The program provides participants with college preparation, career-readiness, leadership development services, and a paid six-week summer internship. For more information, call Youth Connect at (800) 246-4646, Monday–Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

NYC Train & Earn is a short-term career pathway program for low-income youth, ages 16–24, who are not working and not in school. Train & Earn provides extensive job training and employment services along with support services needed by participants to find a permanent job or assistance with college admission. For more information, call Youth Connect at (800) 246-4646, Monday–Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The NYPD Summer Youth Police Academy gives young individuals between the ages of 10 and 15 the opportunity to train with police officers during the summer, leading to positive relationships between the Police Department and the city's youth. For additional information, please call the Community Affairs Bureau's Youth Strategies Division at (718) 312-5079. **Applications are due by Friday, May 31, 2019.**

Housing Assistance

The NYC Housing Resource Center provides support for questions ranging from finding affordable housing to finding shelter quickly. Visit <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/housingportal/index.page> to answer housing questions you may have, or call the City's Affordable Housing Lottery Helpline at 212-863-7990.

Nutrition Programs

The Staten Island Hunger Task Force advocates for the needs of food-insecure families and individuals and not-for-profit emergency feeding programs in order to ensure that hunger needs are met in the borough of Staten Island. To find a food pantry and soup kitchen in your area, visit www.hungryonstateniland.com/pantries.htm, or contact the task force at (718) 420-6466.

Safety and Support

Safe Horizon is the nation's leading victim assistance organization. Their mission is to provide support, prevent violence, and promote justices for victims of crime and abuse, their families, and communities. For assistance, call (718) 720-2591.

Employment Programs

Staten Island Workforce 1 is a service provided by the NYC Department of Small Business Services that prepares and connects qualified candidate to job opportunities in NYC. For more information, call (718) 285-8463.

If you are a New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) resident, you can receive education, training opportunities, and job placement through **Resident Employment Services (RES)**. Visit <https://access.nyc.gov/> or call 311 to determine what programs you may be eligible for.

Health

In New York State, children under 19 years old in low-income families may be eligible for affordable health insurance through **Child Health Plus** coverage, regardless of their immigration status. For more information, call the Child Health Plus Information Line at (800) 698-4543 or the New York State of Health Marketplace at (855) 355-5777, Monday–Friday 8 a.m.–8 p.m., and Saturday 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

NYC Well is New York City's free, confidential support, crisis intervention, and information and referral service for anyone seeking help for mental health and/or substance misuse concerns, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call (888) 692-9355, or text WELL to 65173 to connect with a counselor.

Immigration Help

ActionNYC offers free, safe immigration help for NYC residents. Call the ActionNYC hotline at (800) 354-0365. Monday–Friday 9 a.m.–6 p.m., to schedule an appointment to receive services.

New York State Assembly, Albany, New York 12248



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It was a pleasure to recognize Neighborhood Coordination Officers with certificates of merit for being officers of the month at the 121 Precinct Council Meeting.



After the heinous attacks in New Zealand, I was joined by my colleagues in government, community leaders, and the NYPD to unify the Staten Island community and condemn all acts of terror.