



A s s e m b l y m e m b e r
Grace Lee



Dear Neighbor,

It is an honor to serve as your representative in the New York State Assembly. In my second year, we've made meaningful strides together, from strengthening community safety and closing illegal cannabis stores to securing essential funding for housing in our community. I'm excited to share the impactful legislation we've achieved over the past year and look forward to our work ahead together.

Sincerely,

Fighting Hate in Our Communities

When hate crimes occur, they not only impact the victim, they have a chilling effect on entire communities. As the representative to diverse communities in Lower Manhattan that have been significantly impacted by the recent rise in hate crimes, **I took decisive action to fight hate this year** by sponsoring and passing *the Stop Hiding Hate Act (A.6789B)* and *the Hate Crimes Modernization Act (A.8261)* and securing significant wins in the state budget.

The Stop Hiding Hate Act **holds social media companies accountable for the spread of hate on their platforms** by requiring companies to submit bi-annual reports on how they are dealing with hate speech and harassment on their sites. Despite requests from Elon Musk and X for changes to the bill, I have stood firm against amendments. We're passing these bills to protect the public, not to accommodate social media companies that have gone unchecked for too long.

The Hate Crimes Modernization Act **strengthens our hate crimes laws for the first time in two decades** by adding 23 additional offenses, such as sexual abuse, gang assault, and false reporting of an incident, that can be prosecuted as hate crimes. We must hold people who commit hate crimes accountable. Hate of any kind, against any community - whether Asian, Black, Jewish, LGBTQ+ or otherwise - has no place in our state.

In the state budget, I also helped to secure funding for the Securing Communities Against Hate Grant, which provides **\$35 million to protect houses of worship, religious schools, and other vulnerable locations**; as well as **\$500,000 to review and update Holocaust curriculum** to combat antisemitism.



Speaking at press conference with Governor Hochul in support of the Hate Crimes Modernization Act

More Legislation I Led and Passed

🛡️ Protecting You from Financial Scams: The Financial App Security Act (A.9340) requires stronger security measures for peer-to-peer payment apps, like Venmo and Zelle, to protect your money.

💰 Making Banking Easier: The Pro-Banking Act (A.09057) requires banks to accept the New York City ID card as a primary form of ID, helping more New Yorkers open accounts and access financial services.

💎 Supporting the Asian Community: The inclusion in this year's budget of \$30 million in funding for nonprofits that provide vital, language-accessible services to Asian communities across New York (2024-25 State Budget).

🏫 Investing in Education: The inclusion in this year's budget of \$350,000 to support CUNY's Asian American/Asian Research Institute, and another \$350,000 to create a new AANHPI Leadership Institute at SUNY (2024-25 State Budget).



Speaking on the floor of the Assembly

Advocacy I Led for New Yorkers

Safeguarding families from hazardous sites

- Inspired by my work leading the fight against the mercury-contaminated site across from my daughters' school in the Seaport, **I sponsored and passed a bill to improve New York's Brownfield Technical Assistance Grant program (A.7396)** so that any community with a Brownfield Cleanup site next to a school or daycare center can **automatically qualify for funding for an independent community monitor** - like Excel Environmental and Lawra Dodge did for our community.

- Special thanks to Children First Families, Southbridge Towers residents, the Seaport Coalition, and Community Board 1 for advocating for this bill by sending support letters to legislative leaders!

Protecting the community in the face of Mount Sinai Beth Israel closure

- When the State Department of Health (DOH) issued a conditional approval of Mount Sinai Beth Israel's closure, I joined with other local elected officials to **call for the DOH to protect our communities' access to essential healthcare** and **helped pass a bill requiring public engagement before hospitals can close** entirely or close a unit that provides maternity, mental health or substance use care (A.1633).

Funding our settlement houses

- I helped secure **\$4 million in funding for our settlement houses** in the 2024-25 State Budget – **the first increase in 20 years** for these critical community centers.

Providing a voice to Asian New Yorkers

- I led the APA Task Force to **host the first AAPI legislative summit in our state's history**, bringing hundreds of AAPI New Yorkers and elected officials together in Albany to celebrate heritage and address key issues. This historic event **showcased our community's growing strength and representation in New York State**, and I look forward to making this an annual tradition!



Advocating for a safer cleanup at 250 Water Street with Children First in 2019 (My daughter Lenny was so little then!)



Recognizing Daisy Paez with the Woman of Distinction Award in Albany

Other Key Legislation I Helped Pass This Session

Making our Communities Safer

- **Cracking down on retail theft** by establishing tougher penalties for assaulting a retail worker, selling stolen goods, and repeating offenses (2024-25 State Budget).
- Expanding law enforcement's powers to **immediately padlock illegal cannabis stores** and **impose steeper penalties** on landlords renting to these stores (2024-25 State Budget).
- **Improving traffic safety** by expanding monitoring devices in NYC to reduce traffic-control signal violations (A.5259).
- **Banning unsafe lithium-ion batteries** for bicycles unless certified by an accredited testing lab (A.4938).
- **Increasing penalties for passing stopped school buses** and requiring mandatory driver education (A.00527).



Speaking at a press conference demanding stricter laws against illegal cannabis stores

Safeguarding our Environment

- **Holding polluting companies accountable** for greenhouse gas buildup through the **Climate Superfund program** (A.3351).
- **Banning carbon dioxide use** in gas or oil extraction through the **CO2 Fracking Ban Bill** (A.8866).



Calling for stronger protections for landlords against illegal squatters

Protecting Kids Online

- **Protecting kids from harmful social media** with the **SAFE for Kids Act to stop addictive feeds** (A.8148).
- **Protecting children's privacy** by restricting how digital services handle personal data for those under 18 (A.8149).

Supporting Working Families

- Providing **\$350MM for a new supplemental tax credit for families** eligible for the Empire State Child Tax Credit (2024-25 State Budget).

Preserving and Improving Access to Healthcare

- **Requiring public notice and engagement** when a general hospital seeks to close services to maternity, mental health, or substance care (A.1633A).
- Launching the **Reproductive Freedom and Equity Grant Program** to support abortion providers and protect access to care (2024-25 State Budget).
- Eliminating **co-pays for insulin** on certain insurance plans to reduce costs for patients (2024-25 State Budget).
- Funding **\$36 million to support abortion providers** and non-profit reproductive healthcare organizations (2024-25 State Budget).



Rallying to protect communities from unforeseen hospital closures

Improving Governmental Processes and Accountability

- Removing the limitation on Supreme Court justices seats in order to **add more judges to improve our court system** (A.5366).

Protection and Support for Tenants

- **Improving service restoration during outages** at public housing developments (A.3866).
- New tenant protections **in market rate apartments against** unfair rent hikes and evictions (2024-25 State Budget).
- **\$140 million in capital funding** for **NYCHA** to improve public housing facilities and services (2024-25 State Budget).
- \$35 million in additional **COVID-related rent relief** for NYCHA tenants to cover unpaid rent from March 2020 to May 2023 (2024-25 State Budget).
- **Annual audits** of the **421-A program** to ensure compliance with affordability and rent stabilization requirements (A.2900B).



Welcoming NYCHA Leaders to Albany

New Housing Programs

- Tax incentives to **convert office buildings into affordable residential housing** (2024-25 State Budget).
- **A new 485-X tax exemption to create more housing** with permanent affordability requirements (2024-25 State Budget).



Fighting for affordable housing with our friends in Labor

Legislation to Support Property Owners

- **Clarified the legal definition of “squatter” to prevent illegal occupation** of properties (2024-25 State Budget).
- **Protection for publicly-subsidized properties** against discrimination by insurance companies (2024-25 State Budget).
- **Increased Individual Apartment Improvement (IAI) caps** to help repair rent-regulated apartments and bring them back to the market (2024-25 State Budget).



ASSEMBLYMEMBER

**Grace
LEE**

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Albany, New York 12248

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Welcome to

ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 65!
FROM THE OFFICE OF YOUR ASSEMBLYMEMBER

ASSEMBLYMEMBER

**Grace
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