

# Rebecca Seawright



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## Assembly Advances Sweeping Gun Safety Reforms

Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright joined Speaker Carl Heastie, announcing sweeping gun safety legislation to hold the firearms industry liable for damages, ban "ghost gun" sales, prohibit felony suspects wanted on warrants from purchasing guns, and require quarterly reports on the origin of firearms used to commit crimes in New York.

"The Assembly Majority has worked hard to address the root causes of gun violence in our state," said Speaker Heastie. "The commonsense legislation we passed will build on that, helping keep dangerous weapons off our streets and make it easier for law enforcement to trace and track down firearms that are used in crimes."

*"I'm proud to have co-sponsored and supported this sweeping package of long-needed reforms,"* said Assembly Member Seawright. *"We must get the guns off our streets and end the cycle of gun violence that has taken far too many innocent lives."*

Included in the legislative package is the Jose Webster Untraceable Firearms Act, which would prohibit the possession of ghost guns. Ghost guns are unserialized firearms, typically assembled from unserialized parts, including unfinished frames or receivers.

It would require licensed gunsmiths to serialize and register with the New York State Police any unserialized firearm, rifle, shotgun, finished frame or receiver, or unfinished frame or receiver in their possession.

Other provisions of the package would allow those responsible for the sale, manufacture, importing, or marketing of guns to be held liable for the public nuisance caused by such actions.

The legislation complies with the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA) as interpreted by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in *City of New York v. Beretta USA Corps*. The PLCAA has been used to shield the firearm industry from civil liability.

Also passed by the Assembly is the Scott J. Beigel Unfinished Receiver Act, which would prohibit the possession and sale of unfinished frames and receivers by individuals that are not licensed gunsmiths. Unfinished frames and receivers are incomplete gun components that do not require serial numbers under federal law.

Because guns assembled from unfinished frames and receivers do not have serial numbers, they are untraceable. They can be built and transported without the usual background checks required when purchasing a gun from a licensed retailer. The legislation memorializes Scott J. Beigel, slain in the mass shooting in Parkland, Florida, while trying to protect his students.

The legislative package includes legislation that would prohibit the purchase, acquisition, sale, or disposal of a weapon by anyone known to be the subject of an outstanding warrant of arrest for the alleged commission of a felony or serious offense.

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