



Dear Friends,

Every day I am honored to be a Member of the Assembly. Last week, I was reminded just how important the work that we do is, and how grateful I am for the opportunity to make a real difference in people's lives.

As a member of the NYS Standing Committee on People with Disabilities, and Chair of the Subcommittee on Employment Opportunities for People with Disabilities, I helped organize Disability Legislative Awareness Day to rally for legislation that will improve the lives of people with disabilities. **That day, the Assembly unanimously passed my legislation that requires school districts to provide same day notification to parents of children with disabilities after the use of behavioral restraints, such as seclusion or physical restraint.** Often a child with a disability literally has no voice and cannot reply to a parent asking how their day went. Parents should know the very same day if restraints such as these are applied.

This legislation was part of a [package of bills](#) that the Assembly passed that day to improve the lives of New Yorkers with disabilities, an issue of prime importance to the NYS Assembly. Other legislation adopted that day includes legislation to create the Commission on the Deaf, Deafblind and Hard of Hearing, restoration of the right of state employees with disabilities to sue the state for violation of their rights, and establishment of a small business tax credit for employment of people with disabilities.



Thank you so much to my colleagues and to all the advocates who worked hard not only on my bill, but on the passage of the entire legislative package (included in the photos above are advocates who traveled to Albany for Disability Awareness Day). Thank you to the parents of children with disabilities who attend public schools in Lewisboro and New Castle, who came seeking action to ensure proper notification when behavioral restraints are applied. And thank you so much to my staff, who spent many hours drafting the restraint bill, working on its passage, and on the success of Disability Legislative Awareness Day.

The bill now moves to the NYS Senate, where it is being sponsored by Senator Pete Harckham. I am very optimistic that it will pass the Senate and be signed by the Governor.

This is a terrific first step, but we still have much more work to do to improve the lives of New Yorkers with disabilities. My colleagues and I are continuing to work on legislation to get this done. Please stay tuned!

Free COVID-19 Rapid Tests Available!

Our office has a free supply of rapid COVID-19 tests available for distribution. 2 boxes per person, and you may pick up boxes for each member your household, while supplies last.

The office is located at 100 South Bedford, Suite 150 in Mount Kisco. Pickup is available Monday-Friday, 9:30 am-5:00 pm. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call us at [914-244-4450](tel:914-244-4450).



New York Must Protect a Woman's Right to Choose

Last week we learned that, casting the constitution aside, the U.S. Supreme Court is poised to overturn Roe v Wade - 50 years of well-settled law, protecting a woman's right to choose. In doing so, the Court will sanction an unthinkable, outrageous and dangerous divergence among the states on abortion rights.

The day after the draft opinion was made public, Planned Parenthood and other abortion rights advocates kicked off [a rally](#) on the steps of the Capitol in Albany to decry the apparently imminent decision by the Supreme Court. They were joined by Governor Kathy Hochul, newly appointed Lt. Governor Antonio Delgado, State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie and a large contingent from both the Assembly and State Senate (myself included). I am proud to live in a state that recognizes that women are equal citizens under the law, with the right to make decisions about their own bodies. No woman should be forced to give birth to a child she is not ready or prepared to have. But we must also do everything possible to ensure a woman's right to choose, including protection of women who come to New York because their states are hostile to such rights.

Working with Planned Parenthood and choice advocate Kristen Browde, I [introduced](#) the Freedom from Interference with Reproductive and Endocrine Health Advocacy and Travel Exercise (FIRE HATE) Act in the Assembly, which would give reality to making New York a safe haven for those who come here to obtain medical care involving reproductive health or endocrine function. It would provide a claim of unlawful interference with such protected rights, including

interference comprised of litigation or criminal charges in the courts of any state, brought against any person exercising their rights in New York. This legislation is being carried in the Senate by Senator Alessanda Biaggi.

We have a moral obligation to act and to act now.



Protecting Our Environment

Since coming into the Assembly, I have been pressing for budget measures and the enactment of legislation to combat the climate crisis. **I was pleased that in celebration of Earth Day, the Assembly adopted a package of environmental legislation.** Included in the package is legislation that:

- Requires the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to consider potential inequitable burdens on marginalized communities when locations of facilities are sited
- Directs the DEC to set a statewide goal of preserving 30% of the land and water in the state by 2030
- Establishes an electric landscaping equipment rebate program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through rebates at the point of sale
- Strengthens energy efficiency standards for appliances and encourages the implementation of the state's clean energy and climate agenda through statewide building code, appliance, and equipment efficiency standards
- Establishes a two-year moratorium on the issuance of permits for new electric-generating facilities that use fossil fuels for cryptocurrency mining operations



- Regulates the use of neonicotinoid pesticides and seeds treated with these harmful pesticides
- Bans the use of toxic PFAS chemicals on carpets and requires carpet manufacturers to establish a free carpet recycling program
- Directs the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to study the feasibility of replacing decommissioned or dormant electric generating sites with renewable projects
- Requires the Office of General Services to develop a plan for a zero-emission vehicle fleet

Water Infrastructure Funds

On a somewhat related note, I am pleased to report that funds were recently made available to the towns of Bedford and Lewisboro to help deal with ongoing water Infrastructure issues.

Last week, **Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, during a tour of Lewisboro's Oakridge Water Treatment Plant, celebrated the \$1.8 million dollars he helped deliver from the federal government to help clean up the Oakridge Water District water supply and remove PFAS chemical contaminants.** This has been a difficult issue for the Town of Lewisboro, one that the town has been working hard to resolve, particularly Town Supervisor Tony Gonçalves. We are very grateful to Rep. Maloney for securing these funds, which will go a long way to dealing with the issue. *(My thanks also to my Chief of Staff Heather Lackey (second from the left), who stepped in for me at the press conference while I was up in Albany)*



Governor Kathy Hochul has announced Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) grants to the Town of Bedford and the Town of Lewisboro for water quality infrastructure improvements. Bedford's EFC award will help fund a new water supply source for the Farms and Old Post Road Water Districts, and Lewisboro's award will also help fund the removal of PFAS from the Oakridge Water District. I worked closely with EFC to advocate for the grants.

[A Celebration of Our 2022 Women of Distinction](#)

It was truly my privilege to recently honor 43 incredible Women of Distinction in the 93rd Assembly District. The women we honored all made a difference in the lives of others, and in so many different ways. I am grateful for each and every one of them, and honored that as their representative to the NYS Assembly, I get to recognize them for the amazing and inspiring women that they are.



If you would like to watch the ceremony, it was broadcast via Facebook live and can be [watched here](#) (Note: no need to adjust your screen... we apologize that we were broadcasting sideways for a bit at the beginning).

My thanks to Mount Kisco Mayor Gina Picinich for hosting us at the Mount Kisco Library, and to Westchester County Legislator Erika Pierce for joining as a special guest. Although Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins had hoped and planned to join us, a last-minute matter of urgency required her to stay in Albany, but we thank her for sending her staff to attend and for providing certificates to each of the women honored.

As always, if there are any issues that you would like to see covered in a future newsletter, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at burdickc@nyassembly.gov (or simply reply to this email). **Please also follow me on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) for the most up-to-date information.**

Miss any of our previous newsletters? You can [find them here](#).

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chris Burdick".

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