



# Assemblymember PATRICIA A. FAHY

109<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

@PatriciaFahy109 @AssemblymemberPatriciaFahy  
 @AssemblywomanPatFahy Medium <https://patfahy109.medium.com>



## Budget Update: Summer 2023

This year's adoption of the final FY2024 state budget was among the most difficult — and longest — of my tenure in the Assembly, particularly considering the lack of a housing package to address a growing housing crisis. While work remains on several critical issues, we need solutions to grow our affordable housing stock, expand the number of housing units, and keep New Yorkers in their homes. Additionally, the budget includes an unprecedented infrastructure investment of a \$1.7 billion for a state-of-the-art Wadsworth Public Health Laboratory at the Harriman State Office Campus, to be completed by 2030 — a long-term priority of mine.

As the new Chair of the Assembly Higher Education Committee, I'm proud that this budget rejected student tuition increases at SUNY and CUNY while providing critical and record increases in operating and capital aid to ensure our campuses remain competitive. To further enhance SUNY, I'm especially proud of the first public endowment fund for the four University Centers, including UAlbany, for \$500 million in matching funds. Additionally, I'm proud to secure \$3 million to help alleviate graduate student worker fees.

I am honored to represent each of you in the New York State Assembly and I remain committed to ensuring the Capital Region's and our local economy's future is stronger and more vibrant than ever.

**Read my op-ed on reimagining 787 and why we can't miss this opportunity to enact long-lasting change that impacts our communities and neighborhoods in Albany:**

**Sign up for our weekly email-blasts that we have on each newsletter by visiting:**  
**[nyassembly.gov/fahy](https://nyassembly.gov/fahy)**



## Investing in New York's Future and Families

This year's budget makes significant investments to help New York State's workers, small businesses, and families tackle the affordability crisis and invests in the Capital Region's future, including the \$1.7 billion Wadsworth Labs project. As we build a post-pandemic economy, new investments will lay the groundwork for success and provide relief to New Yorkers throughout the state.

Home health care workers will see a needed wage increase to earn a living wage and create fair pay for home care – though more work is needed to support this vital industry.

### Public Safety and Combatting Gun Violence

I support the public safety reforms included in the budget to ensure that repeat offenders are held accountable, and that gun crimes are fully prosecuted as our communities continue to grapple with the scourge of gun violence. Progress on bail reform will continue to ensure that our criminal justice system doesn't unfairly jail low-income New Yorkers; while making common sense reforms to tackle gun violence in our communities. This year's budget puts forward a plan to balance the intent of our historic criminal justice reforms while further investing in local diversion programs such as the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) and SNUG to interrupt cycles of violence while addressing both gun violence and mental health needs. Critically, this budget invests over \$110 million in anti-gun violence programs, including:

- \$36.3 million for the Gun Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE) program,
- \$31.1 million for youth justice and gang prevention programs, and
- \$21 million for SNUG Outreach organizations like ours here in Albany.



**Community of Excellence Award.** I was proud to receive the College of Saint Rose's Community of Excellence Award alongside Dominick Purnomo, James Reed, M.D., and Saint Rose President Marcia White.

## Higher Education — New Chair

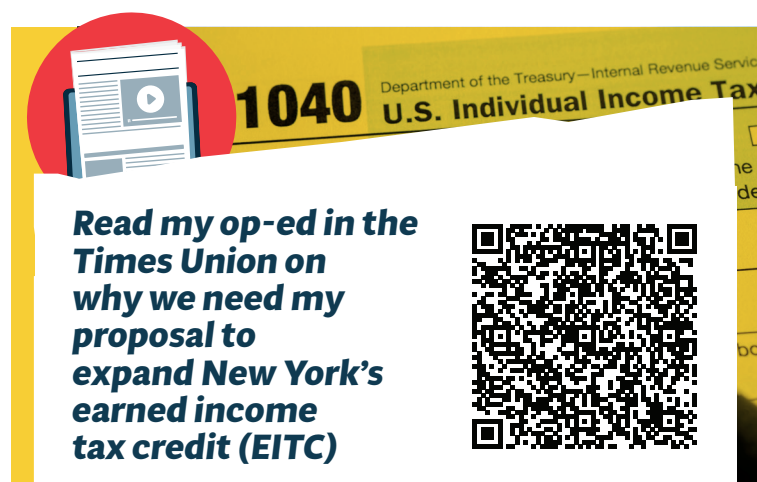
In my first year as Assembly Higher Education Committee Chair, I'm pleased that we were able to hold the line against proposed tuition hikes for SUNY and CUNY students to keep public higher education in New York affordable and accessible. I was also proud to help secure record setting increased operating and capital aid for our SUNY and CUNY systems, which will help our postsecondary institutions continue to provide a world-class higher education. Additionally, this was the first year that we were able to secure funding to help alleviate graduate students fees, and I look forward to seeing the impact that our new \$500 million endowment fund will have on supporting our four SUNY university centers.

## Fully Funded Foundation Aid and P-12 Education

Another year of record amounts of funding for our public schools and fully-phased in Foundation Aid will support our P-12 public schools and students, for a total investment of \$34 billion in school aid and a \$1.5 billion increase in Foundation Aid. In addition, this spending plan invests:

- \$1.1 billion in universal pre-kindergarten education at its highest-ever level,
- provides \$53 million for school mental health programs, and
- increases funding for public libraries by \$5.5 million.

To help fund after school programming, this budget provides \$55 million for the Empire After School Program, and restores \$5 million in funding for the Advantage After School program for a total of \$33 million, contributing towards improving students' academic outcomes and preventing students from engaging in risky behaviors after school.



**Read my op-ed in the Times Union on why we need my proposal to expand New York's earned income tax credit (EITC)**

## Transportation

Up to \$1.3 billion will go towards New York's roads and bridges to help modernize, repair, and upgrade our local highways, roads, and bridges in unprecedented fashion. Critically, these investments will create thousands of good-paying union jobs for New Yorkers and their families, while ensuring that our transportation grid is the most robust that it can be for motorists. Included in this funding is \$60 million for the Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS). To help boost upstate transportation infrastructure spending and maintenance, this budget provides \$306.6 million for upstate transit operating assistance, for a total increase of \$39 million.

## Child Care — A Modern Necessity

A record \$7.6 billion investment will ensure that our state's child care system will expand access, resources, availability, quality, and most importantly, affordability across the state. This year's budget expands income eligibility for the state child care program to families earning up to 85% of the State Median Income including:

- \$500 million for Child Care Workforce Recruitment and Retention Grants to help stabilize child care providers and invest in New York's child care workforce.

## Investing in New York's Families — Expanded EITC (A.5577 Fahy)

A multi-year effort failed to result in expanded financial assistance for our low- and middle-income households and young adults, as the EITC encourages and rewards participation in the workforce, including part-time work. While this result isn't all we'd hoped for in my legislation (A.5577 Fahy), decades of research have validated that the federal EITC and its state-level equivalents are some of the most successful poverty-reduction programs that simultaneously encourage individuals to enter and remain in the workforce.

## Climate Action and Environment

This year, we took the most aggressive steps yet to put us on a fast track to meeting our Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) mandates. We will meet the climate crisis head on by coupling energy affordability with our transition to renewables by implementing first-in-the-nation zero-emission requirements for new building construction and including \$200 million for utility relief for New York families. The ban on gas in new buildings beginning in 2026 does not apply to existing buildings or alterations, additions, repairs, and relocations of existing buildings, and buildings can receive an exemption from this requirement where the local grid is not capable of handling the increased energy load. Additionally, this budget empowers the New York Power Authority to begin large-scale build out of publicly-owned renewable energy projects. This is critical to achieving New York's emission-reduction mandates, something we can only accomplish with robust public-private partnerships.

## Shortfall in Health Care Funding

Our health care workforce and facilities will see badly needed Medicaid hospital inpatient rate increase by 7.5 percent and Medicaid hospital outpatient rates by 6.5 percent. These investments, coupled with a raise in wages for home health care workers worth \$53 million, will help our health care system continue to provide the best accessible and affordable care. Critically, we're also investing \$216.5 million to increase nursing home and assisted living program reimbursement rates by up to 7.5 percent. These investments still fall short of the funding needed to ensure that our health care workforce and facilities are made whole in a post-pandemic world.

## Local and Capital Region Budget Wins

Locally, our Capital Region saw several critical, transformative investments included in this budget that I'm proud to have helped secure.

- A \$2 million capital grant will go towards the construction of Underground Railroad Education Center's new interpretive center.
- New funding of \$25 million will go to help volunteer fire departments across the state invest in physical and infrastructure upgrades.
- \$200,000 for the Multi-Craft Apprentice Preparation Program (MAPP) will ensure we have a local pipeline for those seeking careers in the trades sector.
- The City of Albany's Capital City funding was kept level at \$15 million.
- Our world-renowned Wadsworth Public Health Laboratory—whose work has only grown in significance given the global pandemic—will see a \$1.7 billion consolidation at the Harriman Campus.
- Additionally, a new \$5 million fund will help increase financial support for cornerstones of our communities throughout New York State; our local theaters and performing arts centers, including \$300,000 for the Palace Theater.



CREDIT: Saratoga Associates, 2006 Final Report Market Assessment and Master Plan Study

**\$1.7 Billion for Wadsworth Lab Redesign and Consolidation.** I am thrilled \$1.7 billion was secured in this year's budget to consolidate and upgrade New York's Wadsworth Public Health Laboratory at the Harriman State Office Campus in Albany. I look forward to continuing advocacy for integrating the Harriman Office Campus back into the City of Albany as part of this project, to help maximize the local multiplier effects.

**To invest in our workforce, we're raising the minimum wage to \$16 an hour upstate and indexing it to the cost of living and inflation after three years, which will help to lift the wage floor across our workforce for New York families.**

**Times Union op-ed on NY Taxpayer & International Debt Crises Protection Act.**

Read my op-ed in the Times Union on how the NY Taxpayer & International Debt Crises Protection Act (A.2970/S.4747) safeguards the overall economic stability of our economy and reduces the chances of taxpayer-funded bailouts becoming necessary.



For #WomensHistoryMonth this year, I had the honor of recognizing a familiar face in the Assembly for her work in our community — Denyse Mackey. Denyse's foundation, The Warren and Denyse Mackey Foundation, named in honor of her husband, also advances awareness on the importance of prioritizing wellness and cancer screenings, emphasizing bridging the health care gap in the black community, and drawing attention to genetically predisposed risk identification. Her work has undoubtedly made the Capital Region a healthier and better place to live.



Calling for the Passage of the New York Taxpayer and International Sovereign Debt Act. I joined coalition members to urge the Assembly to pass my legislation (A.2970) that addresses sovereign debt recoverability under New York law.



**Read my op-ed in the Gotham Gazette from earlier this year, which explains why we need the NY HEAT Act to meet our climate mandates and save New Yorkers money:**



Joined by Paul and Mary Liz Stewart, co-founders of the Underground Railroad Education Center, Albany County Legislators Wanda Willingham, Carolyn McLaughlin, Bill Clay, and more to announce a \$2,000,000 grant secured in partnership with Assemblymember John McDonald and Speaker Carl Heastie.

**Looking Ahead: Legislative Priorities**

**The New York Home Energy Affordable Transition (HEAT) Act (A.4592/S.2016)**

Work will continue next year, but this legislation would align the state's Public Service Commission (PSC) goals with New York's climate mandates set forth under the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), passed in 2019. Additionally, this legislation would end the more than \$200 million New Yorkers spend every year through their utility bills to help subsidize new gas infrastructure, otherwise known as the '100-foot-rule'.

**The New York Taxpayer and International Debt Crises Protection Act (A.2970/S.4747)**

Work will continue on one of the most unusual yet profound pieces of legislation I've sponsored. More than half (52%) of the world's privately-held sovereign debt is governed by NYS law. Oftentimes, a small group of hedge funds buy the debts of countries in crisis for pennies on the dollar, and force collection in full when a country is struggling most, further hamstringing their ability to provide basic public health and safety services. New York sets the terms for how this debt may be contracted, which are sometimes abused by certain creditors to hamper restructuring negotiations that benefit the stability of developing countries, pension funds, retirement plans, and American consumers. This bill ensures private creditors are given comparable treatment to public creditors, and ends predatory practices some take advantage of. When sovereign debt crises occur, they reverberate throughout the global economy, driving up the prices of consumer goods, devaluing retirement plans, and threatening the investments of legitimate creditors, which are largely New York-based.

**109TH DISTRICT SCHOOL AID SECURED**

ALBANY CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT:

**\$162,256,640**

GUILDERLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT:

**\$37,637,206**

VOORHEESVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT:

**\$9,052,247**



ASSEMBLYMEMBER  
**PATRICIA A. FAHY**  
109th Assembly District  
Albany, Bethlehem,  
Guilderland, New Scotland

School Aid Secured for 109th Districts. I'm thrilled that we were able to fully fund the Foundation Aid formula for the first time this year, ensuring that our P-12 public schools across the state will have the resources they need to continue providing a high-quality education to New York students.

## CDTA Nature Bus

CDTA's Nature Bus. This free bus service brings you to popular outdoor locations where you can enjoy free programming on most weekends. Take a guided walk, try out bird identification, visit the recently-transformed Lawson Lake County Park, or simply get to know nature. Check it out: <https://www.cdta.org/nature-bus>



**Brendan Fahy Bequette's Memory Continues to Inspire.** During an event at the Albany Center Art Gallery, grants were awarded for students in the arts and sciences in honor of Brendan Fahy Bequette. We continue to 'Pay It Forward' to honor Brendan's memory and work.

## Protect Yourself From Scams Online and Off!

I encourage you to continue to stay vigilant and protect yourself from ever-evolving scams, both online and off.

- Scam tips: [dos.ny.gov/scam-prevention](https://dos.ny.gov/scam-prevention)
- Place your personal phone number on the Do Not Call Registry by calling **1-888-382-1222**
- Report email scams: [spam@uce.gov](mailto:spam@uce.gov)
- Report all suspected identity theft and scams: [tax.ny.gov/help/contact/fraud/](https://tax.ny.gov/help/contact/fraud/).



New York State Assembly • Albany, New York 12248



Assemblymember  
**Patricia A.  
FAHY**

Summer 2023

PRSRT STD.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Albany, New York  
Permit No. 75

## Assemblymember Patricia A. Fahy

Albany Office Staff:

Alex Flood – Communications Director  
Martha Mahoney – Chief of Staff, Legislative Counsel  
Jake Egloff – Legislative Director  
Michalina Kulesza – Director of Community Affairs

Room 717, Legislative Office Building  
Albany, New York 12248 • 518-455-4178 • Email: [fahyp@nyassembly.gov](mailto:fahyp@nyassembly.gov)

Follow Me For the Latest NYS Government + COVID-19 Updates

[www.facebook.com/AssemblymemberPatriciaFahy](https://www.facebook.com/AssemblymemberPatriciaFahy)  
[www.twitter.com/PatriciaFahy109](https://www.twitter.com/PatriciaFahy109) [AssemblywomanPatFahy](https://www.instagram.com/AssemblywomanPatFahy)  
Web: [www.nyassembly.gov/fahy](https://www.nyassembly.gov/fahy)

## Excelsior Scholarship



The Excelsior Scholarship, in combination with other student financial aid programs, allows students to attend a SUNY or CUNY college tuition-free, for families who make less than \$125,000/year. Apply here at: <https://www.hesc.ny.gov/>