



## **2023 PEOPLE'S POLICY AGENDA:**



**ASSEMBLYMEMBER MICHAELLE C. SOLAGES, CAUCUS CHAIRWOMAN**



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**Message from the Caucus Chair**  
**Assemblymember Michaele C. Solages, 22<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District**

With over seventy-five lawmakers, the New York State Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic, and Asian Legislative Caucus remains committed to advocating for policies that advance the well-being of our communities. Our legislative policy agenda reflects our commitment to creating a more opportunities for economic empowerment, stability, and advancement for all New Yorkers.

Moreover, the Caucus will continue its efforts to address the systemic inequalities and injustices that continue to negatively impact Black, Latino, AAPI communities in New York State.

Some of the key areas of focus for the Caucus include promoting economic development and job creation, addressing racial disparities in healthcare access and outcomes, providing for a clean slate for individuals with a criminal record, protecting and expanding voting rights, and advancing educational equity and access.

Through legislative advocacy and community engagement, the Caucus strives to promote policies that builds more resilient communities. The Caucus also works to raise awareness about issues affecting communities of color and to promote greater understanding and collaboration among New Yorkers of all backgrounds.

Overall, the Caucus is a vital voice for communities of color in the state and an important advocate for policies that promote equity, justice, and opportunity for all New Yorkers. However, the participation of everyday New Yorkers is crucial for shaping the agenda of the Caucus and making sure that the voices of all communities are heard. It is their advocacy and engagement that keeps our democracy vibrant and responsive to the needs of the people.





## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Thank you to all the Caucus members, legislative staff, advocates, and everyday New Yorkers who have contributed to this publication. It is critical to recognize and appreciate the efforts of those who work towards creating positive change in our communities. The Caucus remains deeply committed to advancing policies that support the well-being of all New Yorkers, particularly those from historically marginalized communities. That is why it is crucial to have a public input process to ensure these legislative priorities are for the people, by the people.

### **CAUCUS STAFF**

Joshua Joseph, Executive Director





## **THE PEOPLE'S POLICY AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS**

1. **S1040/A5691** - School Solutions Not Suspensions Act
2. **A1029/S211** - Clean Slate
3. **A2210/S2398** - Establishes a statewide emergency and crisis response council
4. **A4454/S305** - Prohibits eviction without good cause
5. **A46/S1977** - Securing Wages Earned Against Theft (SWEAT) bill
6. **A5435/S1867** - Establishes the New York state community doula directory for doulas serving Medicaid patients
7. **A1980/S901** - Requires child protective services to orally and in writing disclose certain information to parents and caretakers who are the subject of a child protective services investigation
8. **A2035/S2423** - Elder Parole
9. **A5686/S987** - Prohibits and regulates the discovery and disclosure of immigration status (New York for All)
10. **S2416** - Establishes the New York state community commission on reparations remedies



## **HOUSING POLICY AGENDA**

Access to affordable, safe, and stable housing is critical for achieving educational success, ensuring public safety, and promoting community wellness. Poor housing conditions can significantly impact the health and safety of residents, which is why the Caucus is committed to combating lead poisoning and enhancing fire safety. Unfortunately, Black, Latino, and Asian New Yorkers often encounter obstacles to accessing affordable housing due to factors such as discrimination, language barriers, and income inequality. The Caucus is dedicated to ensuring that all New Yorkers have equal access to high-quality housing that meets their needs.

### ***Prioritizing Homeowners***

**A2517/S1304** - An act to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to enacting the "adjacent neighbors' bill of rights"

**A 6656/S6577** - Relates to the theft of real property and protecting victims of real property theft

**A329B /S5633A** - Requires notaries public and commissioners of deeds to complete and retain certain documents relating to the transfer of residential real property

### ***Tenant Rights & Protections***

**A1493/ S2721** - Right to Counsel

**A3353/S221** - Establishes the "tenant opportunity to purchase act"; prevents the displacement of lower-income tenants in New York and preserves affordable housing by providing an opportunity for tenants to own or remain renters in the properties in which they reside

**A4454/S305** - Prohibits eviction without good cause

**A1135/S1904** - Relates to grievance procedures for proceedings involving the New York City Housing”

### ***Fire Safety***

**A5415/S333** - Requires the inspection of non-fireproof buildings and compliance with the New York city housing maintenance code and the New York city construction codes

**A5730/S3249** - Requires the installation of smoke detectors in common places of certain dwellings.





### *Utility Support*

**A3866/S220** - Requires entities responsible for the provision of vital services to coordinate and work expeditiously to restore service whenever such service is interrupted

**A4876/S4548** - For the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) to coordinate with utility companies on automated file matching to identify eligible affordability program participants

**A79/S6702** - Requires the results of any outage management system stress test conducted in the state by a utility company to be posted online

**A4895/S1804** - Requires gas and electric corporations to provide sixty days' notice to customers whenever there is a service rate or charge increase

### *Housing Discrimination*

**A4428/S1728** - This bill would require sellers to remove illegal restrictive covenants prior to the sale of real property which discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, familial status, marital status, disability, national origin, source of income, or ancestry

**A5459/S2919** - To address appraisal discrimination by imposing a fine for violation of state and federal fair housing policies and laws, and having those fines allocated to the anti-discrimination in housing fund

### *Lead Free New York*

**A434/S2191** - Directs the State to take over implementation and enforcement of federal EPA rules for training, certification of contractors to ensure lead-safe Renovation, Repair, and Painting projects

**A4820/S2353** Requires the disclosure of lead-based paint test reports in real estate transactions

### *Supporting Seniors*

**A6291/S264A** - Relates to establishing emergency evacuation plan for individuals with disabilities

**A308/S286** - Prohibits the termination of tenancy in housing occupied by substantially all persons over sixty-five years of age and/or persons with disabilities without cause



## **HEALTH & MENTAL HEALTH POLICY AGENDA**

Addressing racial health disparities and promoting health equity is essential to improving health outcomes for all New Yorkers. The Caucus will continue to prioritize policies that emphasize lead remediation and prevention measures, maternal health support, tackle high prescription drug prices, and ending medical debt. Additionally, mental health is a critical component of overall health and wellbeing. This agenda includes legislation to increase access to mental health services, especially for vulnerable populations.

### ***Prioritizing Maternal Health***

**A5465 /S1876** - Establishes a work group to set reimbursement rates for doulas in the state Medicaid program and address other criteria related to their practice

**A5435/S1867** - Establishes the New York state community doula directory for doulas serving Medicaid patients

**A5734 /S6082**- Requires the commissioner to develop a pamphlet containing information and resources to individuals who have suffered a pregnancy loss or infant loss to be distributed by maternal healthcare providers

### ***Prescription Drug Pricing***

**A895/S3518** - Enacts the manufacturer disclosure and transparency act

**A1707/S599** - Requires certain manufacturers of prescription drugs to notify the drug utilization review board of the proposed increase of the wholesale acquisition cost of such prescription drugs

**A4141/S504** - Insulin Price Cap

### ***Reproductive Health***

**A1709/S1066A** - Provides certain legal protections for reproductive health service providers who provide legally protected health activities including protection from extradition, arrest and legal proceedings in other states relating to such services

**A361A/S348B** - Reproductive Freedom and Equity Fund



### ***Tackling Racial Disparities***

**A733A/S1003A** - Relates to providing information to patients and the public on policy-based exclusions

**A782/S1451** - Relates to collaborative models for addressing health care disparities.

### ***Ending Medical Debt***

**A6027/S1366** - Relates to regulation of the billing by general hospitals and the distribution of funds from the general hospital indigent care pool; requires use of a uniform application form and policy

**A6275/S4907** - Prohibits medical debt from being collected by a consumer reporting agency or included in a consumer report

**A6096/S5909** - Establishes a pilot medical debt relief program

### ***Conditions and Diseases***

**A266/S1890** - established the sickle cell treatment act

**A2609/S1839** - creates the sickle cell disease detection and education program

**A4579A/S2676A** - Relates to indoor air quality in schools

### ***Lead Free New York***

**A.6115/ S.5512** - An act to amend the public health law, in relation to enacting the lead pipe right to know act

**A5539/S5292** - An act to amend the public health law, in relation to the definition of elevated blood lead levels

### ***Mental Health***

**A2210/S2398** - Establishes a statewide emergency and crisis response council

**A6563/S1865A** - Requires student identification cards to contain the new national suicide prevention lifeline number, 9-8-8, and the crisis text line, with instructions "Text GOT5 to 741741"

**A1300/S4621** - Confirms the definition of an incarcerated individual with a serious mental illness to the definition of "person with a serious mental illness



## **LABOR, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, & TRANSPORTATION POLICY AGENDA**

A robust and protected workforce is vital to creating an economy that empowers New Yorkers to succeed and prosper. That is why the Caucus remains committed to protecting labor rights, ensuring fair wages, and promoting safe working environments. Moreover, the Caucus will give priority to initiatives that stimulate economic growth and generate employment opportunities throughout the state.

### ***Supporting Workers & Labor Rights***

**A6040/S5026** - Enacts the "freelance isn't free act"; provides for the payment of freelance workers as independent contractors, including requiring written contracts; timely payment of compensation and handling controversies relating to payment, complaint procedures, and penalties; excludes construction contracts

**A5608/S1252** Enacts the "roadway excavation quality assurance act" (Prevailing wage for roadway workers)

**A378/S1800** - Establishes the nail salon minimum standards council act

**A1991A/S4833A**- An act to amend the tax law, in relation to creating a work opportunity tax credit

**A5906/S6096** - Relates to providing certain language access services for injured employees with limited English proficiency

### ***Economic Empowerment***

**A3352/S1754** - Public Banking Act

**A4189/S2473A** - An act to amend the business corporation law, the partnership law and the limited liability company law, in relation to certified public accountants

**A4260/S2370** - An act to amend the labor law, in relation to enacting the "New York state YouthBuild act"

### ***Wage Theft***

**A46/S1977** - Securing Wages Earned Against Theft (SWEAT) bill

**A154/S2832** - Adds wage theft to the types of activities included in the crime of larceny



### ***Transportation Priorities***

**A5677/S6237** - Relates to the sale, lease, rental, and storage of e-bikes and electric mobility devices

**A3874/S1975** - Adds cargo bicycles with electric assist to the types of bicycles with electric assist regulated under the vehicle and traffic law

**A4982/S5191** - Establishes Davina's driver accountability law which requires a uniform curriculum for accident prevention courses

**A4024/S6294** - Relates to the requirement that hearings for traffic infractions shall be conducted in person



## ***ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE & ENERGY POLICY AGENDA***

A critical area of focus for the Caucus is improving environmental health in marginalized communities by addressing toxic exposure, reducing pollution sources, and advocating for a just transition from fossil fuels. Additionally, the Caucus has been actively supporting policies that ensure Black, Latino, and AAPI New Yorkers have access to essential resources for a healthy life, including safe and healthy food and clean drinking water. By addressing these crucial needs, the Caucus aims to create a more just and sustainable environment for all residents of the state.

### ***Climate Action***

**S212/S4056** - Creates climate negligence for dangers to safety and health caused by certain fossil fuel related activity

**A1718/S2127**- Clean Deliveries Act, establishes an indirect source review for certain warehouse operations; requires the department of environmental conservation to conduct a study regarding zero emissions zones

**A4592/S2016** - NY HEAT Act, to stop subsidies for fracked gas hookups

**A964/S1292** - Establishes the clean fuel standard of 2023

### ***Environmental Justice***

**A6584/S2510** - Requires applicants for major projects located near an environmental justice community to submit an enhanced public participation

**A5104/S238** - Establishes the public water justice act

**A3226/S1856** - Enacts the birds and bees protection act

### ***Addressing PFAS in the Environment***

**A3556/S5648A** - Bans PFAS in products, e.g., cookware, architectural paint, textiles, fabric treatments, ski wax and cleaning products

**A5990A/S.3529A** - Bans toxic chemicals in menstrual and intimate hygiene products, e.g., PFAS, mercury, phthalates, parabens, and formaldehyde



## **EDUCATION POLICY AGENDA**

The Caucus recognizes the importance of creating an inclusive and supportive educational environment that benefits all students. The policies listed below ensure equal opportunities for academic achievement, advocate for a diverse teaching workforce that reflects the student population, and actively engage parents in the education system to enhance student outcomes. New York State has the ability and obligation to create a more equitable and successful educational experience for all students in New York State.

### ***Promoting Student Success & Equity***

**S1040/A5691** - School Solutions Not Suspensions Act

**A3903/S5103** - Includes policies and procedures for responding to students having mental health crises

**S2304/S1645** - Dyslexia screening act

**S6713/A4659** - Dyslexia instruction for prospective teachers

**S4743/A1988** - Black Leadership Institute at SUNY

**A4502/S1395** - Provides the Board of Regents with final approval authority over all proposed and renewed charter schools

**A7062/S5709** - Establishes the Diwali school holiday in certain qualifying school districts to commemorate the Hindu festival of lights

**A1939/S5334** - Allocates the Amistad commission in the department of education, and repeals certain provisions of the arts and cultural affairs law relating to the Amistad commission

### ***Empowering Community & Parent Participation***

**A1799/S2967** - Establishes the citywide leadership team

**A1203/S2949** - Establishes representative requirements for district leadership teams and school leadership teams

**A1793/S1689** - Requires district leadership teams to operate under open meetings law requirements



### ***Teacher Diversity***

**A2247/S1988** - Directs the commissioner to convene statewide and regional conventions to bring together underrepresented educators

**A4274/S1192** - Establishes the underrepresented teachers of tomorrow teacher recruitment and retention program

### ***Higher Education Priorities***

**A31335/S3052** - Requires the higher education services corporation to make a determination of financial eligibility of a student for financial aid, awards and loans within 60 days from the day of the receipt of the financial aid application

**A5240/S793** - Relates to transferring credits from a CUNY community college to a New York state university

**A1882/S1396** - Requires colleges, universities, professional, proprietary and graduate schools to provide written notice to all students of the institution's tuition liability policy

**A3828/S5518** - Requires coursework in the area of diversity, equity and inclusion as part of continuing education requirements for the profession of psychology





## **HUMAN SERVICES & IMMIGRATION POLICY AGENDA**

To build safe and resilient communities, it is crucial to prioritize the well-being of New York families. The Caucus recognizes the need to address issues related to the family court system and the separation of families of color. Moreover, the members will advocate for legislation that expands community intervention resources, support services, and evidence-based approaches to prevent violence and create secure environments for all families. Additionally, the body is dedicated to championing policies that protect the rights of immigrants, including access to education, legal representation, and protection from discrimination. By focusing on these priorities, the Caucus aims to create a strong safety net system that ensures the stability and well-being of all New Yorkers, especially vulnerable communities.

### ***Reparations Community Commission***

**S2416** - Establishes the New York state community commission on reparations remedies

### ***Community Violence Prevention***

**A2893/S580** - Makes community violence prevention services available, to the extent permitted by federal law, to any Medicaid beneficiary who has received medical treatment for an injury sustained as a result of an act of community violence and has been referred by a certified or licensed health care provider or social services provider to receive community violence prevention services from a qualified violence prevention professional

**A5791/S6238** - Defines the term "mass shooting" for purposes of emergency response measures and access to emergency funding

### ***Keeping Families Whole***

**A1980/S901** - Requires child protective services to orally and in writing disclose certain information to parents and caretakers who are the subject of a child protective services investigation

**A109/S320** - Requires medical care providers to seek the informed consent of pregnant people and new mothers before they or their babies are drug tested.

**S2143A/S1539A** - Relates to the creation of a self-sufficiency standard study regarding how much income is needed for a family of a given composition in a given geographic location to adequately meet its basic needs without public or private assistance

**A5394/S6720** - To allow post-termination visitation and/or contact between children and their birth parents in termination of parental rights proceedings provided it is deemed in the best interest of the child.



### ***Immigration Rights***

**A4354/S306** - Dignity Not Detention would end the practice in NYS of local jails making contracts with ICE for the jailing of immigrants for ICE

**A636/S2061** - Prohibits the disclosure of immigration status for victims of domestic violence

**A5686//S987** - Prohibits and regulates the discovery and disclosure of immigration status (New York for All)

**A01961A/S81B** - Would guarantee that “no one must defend themselves against a trained-government lawyer alone to protect themselves and their families from deportation

### ***Uplifting Seniors New Yorkers***

**A1845/S1296** - Relates to informal caregiver training; defines "person in need of assistance"; expands who may serve as an "informal caregiver"

**A5916/S6095** - Requires a second notification to persons previously eligible for a senior real property tax exemption



## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE & CIVIL RIGHTS POLICY AGENDA**

The Caucus actively supports specific civil rights and criminal justice legislation with a strong focus on promoting fairness and equality. One important area of advocacy is the implementation of Clean Slate, which aim to expunge non-violent criminal records, providing individuals with a fresh start. Another critical priority is parole justice, which advocates for fair and equitable practices that prioritize rehabilitation, evidence-based assessments, and individualized consideration. Through these legislative initiatives, New York can create a society that upholds civil rights, promotes justice, and treats all individuals with dignity and respect under the law.

### ***Reducing Recidivism***

**A1029/S211** - Clean Slate

**A1263/S1976** - Treatment Not Jail

**A4432/S4915** - Relates to the "juvenile offender second chance act" which establishes the ability for a person to be adjudicated to be a youthful offender and receive all provisions and benefits of being a youthful offender

### ***Parole Justice***

**A2035/S2423** - Elder Parole

**A162/S307** - Fair & Timely Parole

**A586/S126** - Relates to the education and experience of members of the state board of parole

### ***Victims Support***

**A02105/S214A** - Expands eligibility for victims and survivors of crime to access victim compensation funds by removing the mandatory law enforcement reporting requirement and providing alternative forms of evidence that would show that a qualifying crime was committed

**A3257/S303** - Increases the amount for awards made to crime victims; specifies certain items of personal property which are necessary and essential to the welfare of a claimant



## ***Safeguarding Civil Rights***

**A2872/S215** - An act to amend the criminal procedure law, in relation to motions to vacate judgment

**A4183/S313** - This law would eliminate the myriad of mandatory fees and surcharges imposed in NY criminal courts

**A505/S449** - Relates to detaining persons for longer than twenty-four hours

**A4009/S5965** - Relates to providing notice of voting rights to persons released from local jails including written information distributed by the board of elections

**A1722/S1381A** - Requires proposed amendment to the constitution or other question provided by law to be submitted to a statewide vote be submitted to the people for their approval in plain language

