

MICAH LASHER

A Report on the 2025 Legislative Session

Dear Neighbor,

I still believe that the legislative process — for all of its flaws — is one of the most powerful tools we have to solve difficult problems at scale and make people’s lives better. That is why I wanted to serve in the State Assembly. With my first legislative session on the books, I am writing to give you a report on how I approached the work, achievements of the session, and, also, some disappointments.

Building a Legislative Agenda

There were 9,000 bills introduced this year in the Assembly. Many of them address specific, technical issues. And many of these are, indeed, important. But at a time when the world — and our democracy — so often feels like it’s burning, I decided to focus on introducing bills that would have as broad and as substantive of an impact as possible. Quality over quantity.

With the sweeping damage that is being done by the Trump Administration to the laws, liberties, and programs that New Yorkers depend on, I focused in particular on developing legislation that is responsive to what is happening at the federal level. In the end, I introduced 34 bills this session; roughly a third were aimed at fighting back against the Trump regime.



Choosing priorities among these bills was essential. How a bill becomes a law in New York is less “Schoolhouse Rock” and more a combination of Whac-a-Mole and improvisational jazz. There’s a lot of blocking and tackling a legislator must do to advance a bill past the many obstacles that stand in the way of a vote on the floor, and only so much time and bandwidth. And so, I narrowed my priority list down to bills that both met the moment and seemed like they had a shot.

I focused like a laser on the FAIR Business Practices Act. This bill, which I introduced in collaboration with Attorney General Letitia James,



Standing with Attorney General Letitia James in support of our bill on corporate misconduct and consumer protection.

responds to the Trump administration’s shutdown of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau by expanding the power of the State Attorney General’s office to take on corporate misconduct that cheats New Yorkers. It represented a critical change at a critical time, and it faced significant opposition.

I knew that if that bill, and only that bill, got done, I could feel good about the session. Again: quality over quantity. But I also knew that it might not make it, and so I woke up every morning in Albany thinking about what I could do that day to push each bill on my shortlist a bit further down the field.

When the dust settled, the FAIR Business Practices Act got done, and so did my bills on renewable energy, housing discrimination, and protections for rent-stabilized tenants. (More on each of these inside.) Each bill involved robust debates on the floor of the Assembly with my colleagues on the other side of the aisle — a sign, I think, that we were taking on issues of consequence. A number of other bills that I cared about and had worked on, sponsored by colleagues, also got done. And, of course, there were disappointments.

Disappointments

One of the most frustrating things about Albany is that it’s far easier to defeat a bill than it is to pass one. There were a number of things we didn’t get done that left me frustrated and disappointed, and it wouldn’t be a full accounting if I didn’t share these with you.

On immigration, the “New York for All” bill (A3506a) would substantially limit cooperation between state and local authorities and ICE, and a separate bill (A8139) that I sponsor would make schools, hospitals, houses of worship, shelters, and certain other locations off-limits for civil arrest by immigration authorities. I spoke up forcefully and repeatedly in favor of taking action to protect immigrant New Yorkers, but both bills remained stuck in committee.

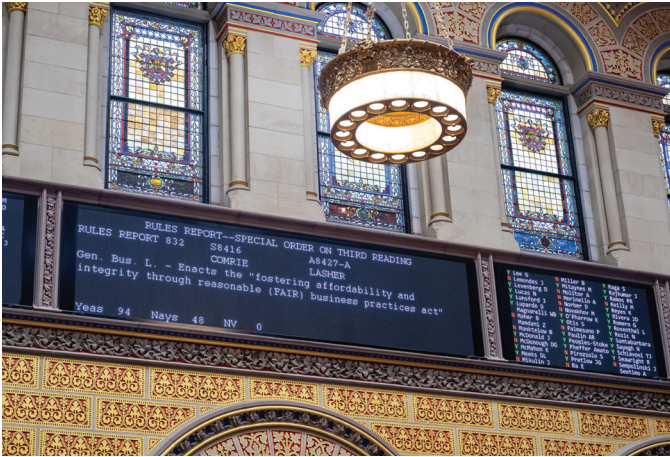
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✓ Bill Passed (A8427)

Trump-Proofing Consumer Protection: The FAIR Business Practices Act



I was proud to partner with Attorney General Letitia James on legislation to comprehensively update – for the first time in 45 years – New York State law on corporate misconduct and consumer protection. Our bill strengthens the Attorney General’s authority to stop business practices that take advantage of New Yorkers.



Why now?

This bill comes at a critical time, as the Trump Administration turns out the lights at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and shuts down consumer protection work at the Federal level.

How did it pass?

In order to broaden support for the bill, we had to cut provisions that would have expanded the ability of individual New Yorkers to sue when they are taken advantage of (distinct from the expansion of the Attorney General’s powers, which remained intact). Still, fierce opposition remained. In the final hours of the last night that the State Senate was meeting, we had a breakthrough and the leadership of both the Assembly and the Senate agreed to bring the bill to the floor. It was so late, in fact, when the bill was brought to the Senate floor, that the lobbyists fighting us had gone home and to sleep believing that it was dead and they had won. A few days later, we passed the bill in the Assembly in one of our final acts of the session.

Who opposed the bill?

The bill faced enormous opposition from a wide array of corporate interest groups, particularly in the banking and insurance industries. In fact, it has now come to light that 55 different entities hired 43 different lobbyists, and it was the second most-lobbied bill in the session. Opponents fought the FAIR Business Practices Act tooth-and-nail, and it seemed, even after we amended the bill in response, as though they had us beat.

! **The FAIR Business Practices Act, and all of the bills written about here, will now go to the Governor’s desk.**



Other Victories: Fighting Antisemitism,



State Budget Process

I worked hard back in March and April to advance important policy goals in the State budget. I was a strong advocate for making thoughtful changes to what’s known as the “discovery law,” so that – without diminishment of due process – fewer cases brought by our District Attorneys get dismissed on technical grounds. I also wrote bills that were adopted in the budget, and became law, to create a **public revolving loan fund for affordable housing** (A799) and to make it more likely that **people with serious mental illness get the help they need** (S254a).



Campus Discrimination

I worked closely with Assemblymember Nily Rozic on her legislation (A5448a) to require every college in New York to have a Title VI Coordinator. This legislation was spurred by, and responsive to, rising incidents of antisemitism on college campuses, but it broadly helps to **protect the rights of all students** to pursue their education free from harassment and discrimination.

✓ Bill Passed (A8332)

Helping Wind & Solar Energy Projects Thrive

New York has ambitious climate goals that we are struggling to meet, and we can't build new wind and solar energy projects fast enough. On this issue, the Trump Administration is pulling out all the stops to halt progress.

How does the bill work?

One of the tools that Trump's allies at the local level use to stop wind and solar projects is to tax them to death. Projects that aren't economically viable don't get built. This legislation will resolve years of court battles and finally establish a consistent and predictable statewide tax assessment structure for wind and solar projects.

✓ Bill Passed (A06423A)

Protecting Rent-Stabilized Tenants

Several years ago, the Legislature passed protections related to the "security deposits" that tenants pay to landlords when an apartment is leased out. These protections codified standard practices to ensure that a tenant gets his or her security deposit back unless there is damage to the apartment.

The new law, however, did not apply to the roughly one million rent-stabilized apartments in New York City. Together with Senate Housing Chair Brian Kavanagh, I proposed legislation to include rent-stabilized tenants in these protections, and we passed it this session.

✓ Bill Passed (A4040A)

Protecting Fair Housing Enforcement

President Trump is stripping away the Federal government's capacity to take action against housing discrimination by repealing the legal standard — known as "disparate impact" — used to enforce the Fair Housing Act of 1968.

While New York has laws prohibiting housing discrimination, those laws also rely on the federal standard. I introduced legislation to codify the disparate impact standard into State law, so that New Yorkers will continue to have legal protections from housing discrimination, come what may in Washington. This bill was passed by the Assembly on June 6th and by the Senate a few days later.



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Protecting Worker Rights, and More



Labor Protections

Together with Assembly Labor Committee Chair Harry Bronson, I helped write and pass a bill (A8590a) that would expand the jurisdiction of New York State's Employee Relations Board to cover any group of employees that loses the protection of the National Labor Relations Board. This will **ensure that basic labor protections and the rights of workers are preserved** in New York State.



Abortion Access

I co-sponsored legislation (A5480), also by Assemblymember Bronson, to expand **legal protections for medical professionals who provide reproductive and gender-affirming care**, and was proud to see it pass on the final day of the legislative session. These medical professionals are under attack, which is dramatically curtailing access to needed services.



NY HEAT

I was a vocal advocate for the New York HEAT Act (A4870a), sponsored by Assemblymember Jo Anne Simon, which aims to **wean New York off of fossil fuel dependency**. While I was disappointed that the full bill didn't pass, I was pleased that we enacted a key component of it (A8888).

Continued from the front...

There were two significant pieces of environmental legislation under consideration this session, New York HEAT and the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act (PRRIA) (A1749). I am proud to co-sponsor both of these bills. We enacted one key component of NY HEAT, and nothing on PRRIA, which was defeated in no small part by an army of lobbyists.

And, for another year, the Legislature failed to take any meaningful action to increase housing supply in New York. As I've written before, if we want to tackle the affordability crisis in New York, we need to build more housing, and a lot of it.

Threats From Washington

Since the end of session, two significant events have occurred implicating the Legislature.

First, Congress passed Trump's Big Ugly Bill, which is nothing short of a disaster – slashing health care, food assistance, student aid, and more. As a result, the Legislature will face enormously difficult choices next year.

Which takes us to the most recent development: the unprecedented act by the Texas governor and legislature of redrawing the state's congressional lines, mid-decade, to shift the balance of power in Congress. More on this below.

I am incredibly grateful to represent a district that wants its representatives to stand up not just for our interests, but for our values.

Together, let's keep up the fight.

Sincerely,

Micah Lasher

P.S. As always, please reach out to me at **212-866-3970** or **lasherm@nyassembly.gov** if there is any way I can be of assistance.



Rallying together with environmental activists in Albany.

**NEWS FROM ASSEMBLYMEMBER
MICAH LASHER**

New York State Assembly
Albany, New York 12248

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Join me for a town hall!

**SEPTEMBER 16, 2025, 6:30 P.M.
P.S. 333, 154 WEST 93RD STREET**

RSVP to mitchellr@nyassembly.gov



Escanear para Español

Fighting Trump's Congressional Power Grab

The governor of Texas and legislators there have broken with longstanding precedent to approve a mid-decade redrawing of the state's congressional district lines that will likely shift party control of five seats. This threatens to change the fundamental balance of power in Congress. While I am a longstanding supporter of independent redistricting, the reality is that New York cannot hold itself to some higher standard that other states are abandoning.

If we do so, New Yorkers will be permanently disenfranchised. That is why I have introduced a constitutional amendment to allow New York to do mid-decade redistricting if another state has done so first. While this would not take effect in time for the 2026 elections, this new era of continuous,

partisan redistricting is likely to be with us for many election cycles to come – and we must act now to protect New Yorkers' interests for the long term.

In Fight for House, New York May Follow Texas in Redrawing Maps

New York Times, July 28, 2025