



June 5, 2023

Dear Neighbors,

I can hardly believe it's already June as I enter the final week of the legislative session! I'd like to wish our District's LGBTQIA+ community a very happy Pride month and express my ongoing commitment to promoting your welfare, safety, and inclusion as long as I am in office.

Legislative Update

PASSED - LGBTQ Advisory Board

Just in time for the beginning of Pride month, the Assembly has passed my LGBTQ+ Advisory Board bill ([A1273](#)), which will officially recognize and designate an existing informal committee and give them a permanent voice in Albany to guide research and advise the executive office. New York State has a long history as a leader in the LGBTQ+ struggle for rights. I'm proud to continue this legacy of inclusion and protection as much of our country is faced with a growing threat to the freedoms, safety and rights of LGBTQ+ people.

PASSED - LGBTQ Access to Substance Abuse Treatment

The LGBTQ+ community is shown to be vulnerable to substance use issues, due to the unique mental health and socio-economic risk factors this group faces. This bill ([A4903](#)) will ensure that substance use disorder patients will have access to services based on their gender identity or expression and preferences, making treatment safer and more accessible for this marginalized population.



Anna in the News

Clean Slate Rally

Last week I had the opportunity to speak out for criminal justice reform at a rally for Clean Slate NY in Albany. This bill ([A1029-A](#), Cruz) will allow eligible formerly incarcerated people the opportunity to have their conviction records sealed after a certain period of time when parole/probation is completed. Sealing records allows people who have been through the carceral system a much higher chance at finding employment, economic stability, and drastically reduces the likelihood of recidivism. Breaking cycles of crime requires giving people opportunities to change the direction of their lives, reducing desperation and providing access to resources so that people can successfully reintegrate into their communities. Clean Slate is an important step towards a better criminal justice system.



Sierra Club Press Conference: Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances

I was able to share some important information about the threat of PFAS with the Atlantic Chapter of the Sierra Club's Farm and Food Committee as they discussed the State's waste management plan to utilize sewage sludge as a soil amendment in agriculture.

PFAS, or "forever chemicals" contaminating our water supply are a growing threat to our ecosystem and our health, as these pollutants don't degrade and can accumulate in our bodies and cause harm to many of our biological systems.

New York State is proposing two policies that would increase the practice of using PFAS-contaminated sewage sludge as a fertilizing agent for farmland as part of a waste management plan, which would certainly result in the further contamination of our food supply with PFAS chemicals. We must not support policy that allows for the intentional spread of known PFAS contaminants, especially where we grow our food!

You can [watch the full recording](#) of the Sierra Club's report release, and [view the proposed waste management plan](#) for more information. You are also invited to **make a public comment** on the DEC's plan by **June 14th, 2023**. Comments should be submitted by email to NYSSolidWastePlan@dec.ny.gov. Please include "Comments on SSWMP" in the subject line of the email.

An important part in better protecting ourselves and mitigating damage to our environment is understanding the source of these chemicals and what we

can do to minimize the harm they are doing. The PFAS Disclosure Act ([A3296](#)) will require industrial manufacturers and water treatment facilities to account for the PFAS chemicals they are discharging into freshwater or groundwater to enable better analysis of the sources of these contaminants.



Sewage Sludge 'Fertilizer' Contaminates Farms with Toxic PFAS: Report Release, June 1 2023



Tompkins County Public Library Virtual Tween Book Club

From TCPL:

Tompkins County Public Library is pleased to offer a virtual Tween Book Club on Wednesday, June 14 from 4:30 to 5:30 pm. Kids ages 9-13 are welcome to join the virtual Tween Book Club, which will meet online. The June club will read *Among the Hidden* by Margaret Peterson Haddix, a dystopian classic about a fictional future in which drastic measures have been taken to quell overpopulation.

To register, receive the online link, and reserve a free copy of the book to keep, visit <https://www.tcpl.org/event/tween-book-club-among-hidden>.

Questions? Contact Alice Ball at aball@tcpl.org or 607-272-4557, ext. 262.

In solidarity and health,



Anna Kelles, Ph.D.

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