



June 12, 2023

Dear Neighbors,

Last week featured intense debate and several extremely long nights, where my team and I worked round the clock during what we expected to be the final stretch of this legislative session. The Assembly will return next week for a final few days of session, where I hope we'll be able to expand our list of legislative successes. I'd like to share some really big wins from last week:

Legislative Update

Carshare Insurance ([A5718b](#)) Passed!

I am thrilled to announce that this bill has passed both the Senate and the Assembly and now awaits Executive signature. This bill will allow Ithaca Carshare & other carshares around the state to secure the insurance they need to resume operations, providing an eco-conscious and economic alternative to private car ownership for members. Ithaca Carshare is a vital service that allows for transportation to work, grocery shopping, and interconnectivity between communities. This bill will not only help carshares, but many other types of nonprofits needing to find auto insurance for their vehicles. This is a huge win for our community, for the state and for the environment!

Ithaca Carshare will need to remain temporarily closed for a six-month waiting period after the bill is signed by the executive office as the DMV updates its systems. They plan to resume services as soon as these requirements are met.



Agrivoltaics Research ([A4911](#)) Passed!

This bill specifies how funding passed in the State Budget will be used to establish the Agrivoltaics Research Program at the New York State College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS) at Cornell University. This program would develop science-based recommendations for the combined use of land for agriculture and solar power arrays while promoting biodiversity. Research shows that this efficient use of space increases yields of certain crops and is an excellent way to improve sustainability while transitioning to a renewable energy economy.

Co-Sponsored Legislation:

Clean Slate ([A1029c](#), Cruz) Passed!

This bill allows for the sealing of certain criminal records after 7 years to enable eligible formerly incarcerated people a far greater chance of finding work and economic stability as they reintegrate into society. This measure is a significant step towards breaking cycles of crime and creating safer communities. We are hoping this paves the way for future passage of the Earned Time Act bill ([A1128](#)) which I authored.

New York
PASSED
Clean Slate!



Anna in the News

Even though these bills did not pass the Assembly this session, I fought for them until the end and will continue to support important legislation such as the Solutions not Suspensions Act, No Slavery in New York Act, and Medical Aid in Dying Act.



Solutions Not Suspensions ([A5691](#), Solages)



No Slavery NY ([A3412b](#), Epstein)



Medical Aid in Dying ([A0995](#), Paulin)

Community Resources

Internet Access Survey

The ConnectAll Office of NYS wants to hear from you about your experiences accessing and using internet service. Your feedback will provide valuable information to help to promote digital equity across the State. You can [access the ConnectAll Office Survey here](#).

Public Hearing

Cortlandville-Gutchess Lumber Sports Complex Virtual Public Hearing

A [virtual public hearing](#) to discuss plans for the Cortlandville-Gutchess Lumber Sports Complex in Cortland County will be held Thursday, **June 15 from 2:00-3:00pm**. Those who would like to submit email comments may send them to landgprojectcomments@esd.ny.gov with the following subject line: Comment – Gutchess Lumber Sports Complex Phase 2 Capital – Regional Council Capital Fund (Capital Grant). Comments must be submitted by **5:30 pm** on June 15.

In solidarity and health,



Anna Kelles, Ph.D.

Assemblymember, 125th A.D.

ALBANY OFFICE
LOB 833
Albany, NY 12248
518-455-5444

CORTLAND OFFICE
83 Main St
PO Box 5026
Cortland, NY 13045
607-208-2024

ITHACA OFFICE
106 East Court Street
Ithaca, NY 14850
607-277-8030