

Liz Krueger

New York State Senate | 28th District



February 2017

Message from Liz...

*Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glowes world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
“Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!” cries she
With silent lips. “Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”*

-“The New Colossus” by Emma Lazarus

It seems every day brings a new executive order from the Trump administration that attacks the basic principles of liberty and decency that represent the promise of the United States of America. In the face of these threats to what I have always believed our country should stand for, the only option for me and many other Americans is to resist.

That is why I am extremely proud that the Senate Democratic Conference has committed itself to a Resistance Agenda that can make New York a leader in standing up to the policies of Donald Trump. The conference introduced a package of legislation that includes three bills to protect refugees, immigrants and foreign students from being victimized by the Trump Administration’s recent Executive Order.

The Senate Democratic Resistance Agenda includes:

- Port Authority Resistance Bills (S3974, S4024): This legislation would prohibit the Port Authority from supporting federal efforts in any way, including supporting personnel, the use of airport facilities, or providing electricity and climate control in areas of the airport being used for the detentions. Under this proposal, Port Authority police and employees would be prohibited from providing any assistance

What’s Inside

Message from Liz	1
Policy Spotlight	2
-Reproductive Health Act	
Community Update	3
-Town Hall on Access to Healthcare in the Trump Era – Save the Date	
-Senator Krueger's Roundtable for Boomers & Seniors – Thursday March 9th	
-Town Hall Meeting on Fighting Overdevelopment in the East 50s	
-State of the Borough Address and Activist Fair on February 12th	
-Met Council on Housing Meeting: Tenants Movement Under Trump	
-Fire Safety Education Event at Upper East Side Rehabilitation and Nursing Center	
-2017-2018 Pre-K Enrollment Period Ends February 24th	
-Important Information for Tenants Who Lost Their SCRIE or DRIE Benefits (or Had Their Benefits Reduced) Due to a Late Renewal	
-Free Tax Preparation Assistance	
-Become a New York State Long Term Care Ombudsman	
-Legal Advocacy Clinics From Lenox Hill Neighborhood House	
- Monthly Housing Clinics and Workshops	
-Affordable Housing Opportunities in Manhattan	
-Metrocard Bus and Van Schedule	
-Heat Season Rules	

to the federal government to enforce Trump's executive actions on Muslims and refugees. Additionally, no NYPD officer or State Police officer would be authorized to provide any assistance to federal officers.

- **SUNY/CUNY Resistance Bill:** This proposal would require SUNY and CUNY employees to avoid inquiring over a student's immigration status to the extent that such action would assist the federal government in removing immigrant students. This legislation would also neutralize controversial efforts by the State Senate Republicans to require universities to compile data regarding the number of foreign students, their countries of origin and the programs they are enrolled in. Under this proposal, SUNY and CUNY would be prohibited from determining if a student was from a specific Muslim-majority nation, whether the student had proper immigration status, or was undocumented.

- **Dignity for Immigrants in New York (S3084)** Under this legislation, state officials would be prohibited from detaining a person due to their undocumented immigration status unless he or she has been previously convicted of a violent felony or one of several enumerated crimes. New York is the home of the Statue of Liberty, the Mother of Exiles, who watches over the most diverse and vibrant city in the world. President Trump's un-American attacks on Muslims and immigrants strike at the heart of what makes our city, our state, and our country great. He is on the wrong side of history, and anyone who stands with him or fails to take action against his agenda of hate and fear will have to answer to the people of this state and the judgment of posterity. I am proud to join my Senate Democratic colleagues in resisting these immoral, illegal, and unconstitutional actions.

P.S. In addition to fighting his executive orders, I have also been working with advocates to oppose President Trump's cabinet nominees. I recently signed a letter from state legislators across the country opposing the nomination of Betsy DeVos as Secretary of Education. A link to that letter is here:

https://www.scribd.com/document/337879173/State-lawmakers-urge-U-S-Senators-to-reject-Betsy-DeVos-as-education-secretary#from_embed

I have also issued a statement urging the US Senate not to approve the nomination of Neil Gorsuch as the next member of the Supreme Court. A link to that statement is here:

<https://www.nysenate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/liz-krueger/statement-senator-krueger-president-trumps-supreme-court-nominee>

POLICY SPOTLIGHT

Reproductive Health Act

With the Trump administration indicating that it is planning an all-out assault on reproductive rights, it is more critical than ever that New York state update its laws regarding abortion access. I am the lead Senate sponsor of the Reproductive Health Act (S2796), which would codify the abortion protections of the Roe v. Wade decision. The Assembly version of this bill (A1748), sponsored by Deborah Glick, has already passed the Assembly this year and the Senate needs to do the same. Governor Cuomo has also been a longtime supporter of the Reproductive Health Act, and recently announced that he will be drafting a constitutional amendment adding abortion protections to the State Constitution. I applaud Governor Cuomo's support for a constitutional amendment protecting abortion rights. But because reproductive rights are in danger now, and the amendment process takes years, it is critical that the Senate pass the Reproductive Health Act immediately.

A constitutional amendment would have to be voted on in two successive legislative sessions, which would mean if it passed this year it would have to pass again in 2019 or 2020, and then would come before the public for a vote. Therefore a constitutional amendment wouldn't take effect until 2019 at the very earliest - and likely much later. That's simply too long for New Yorkers to wait to have their fundamental rights enshrined in our laws.

Some women are already forced to travel outside of New York to receive care because of New York's outdated abortion law. Last updated in 1970, New York's abortion law falls short of constitutional protections as defined by Roe v Wade in 1973, and does not reflect current medical practices. The RHA would explicitly allow for constitutionally-protected care late in pregnancy when a woman's life or health is at risk, or a fetus is not viable. Currently, discrepancies between state and federal law often force critically ill pregnant women to leave the state in order to get the care they need. Additionally, the RHA repeals outdated and unconstitutional criminal statutes prohibiting abortion, and moves the regulation of abortion into the public health law. This ensures that New York State law treats abortion as health care, not a criminal act.

There's no doubt that women's reproductive rights are under attack all over this country. President Trump has promised that he will appoint a Supreme Court justice dedicated to overturning Roe v Wade; and as this week's appointment of Neil Gorsuch has demonstrated, the President intends to keep his promises no matter how much damage they do to the American people.

I thank my colleagues in the Assembly for passing the Reproductive Health Act. Now it is up to the Senate. I am pleased that a bipartisan majority of the Senate has now indicated they are pro-choice, and I call on Majority Leader Flanagan to allow a vote on the Reproductive Health Act. New York families have waited long enough - we can pass this bill, and the time to act is now.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Town Hall on Access to Healthcare in the Trump Era – Save the Date:

On Saturday, March 4th, Assembly Member Dick Gottfried and I are hosting a Town Hall on Access to Healthcare in the Trump Era. Speakers will include Assembly Member Gottfried, Elizabeth Benjamin, Vice President of Health Initiatives at the Community Service Society, and a representative of Planned Parenthood. The forum will explore expected changes to healthcare under the Trump administration as well as policies New York State could adopt to protect access to healthcare in the wake of these changes. All speakers will also address ways to get involved in the fight to protect healthcare access. The location for the event is still being finalized – stay tuned for further details.

Senator Krueger's Roundtable for Boomers & Seniors – Thursday March 9th:

This 5-part program provides an opportunity for neighbors to come together to explore life issues that are relevant across the age span. At each session you will hear from and engage with professionals who are knowledgeable on topics that are of concern to the growing population of older adults in New York City.

This year our topic is “Controversies in Aging.” Sessions will be held on:

- Social Security: Retirement Insurance or Social Safety Net?
- Aid in Dying in New York: Debating Proposed Legislation
- The Court System and Older Adults
- Medicare – Why Isn't Vision, Hearing and Dental Covered?
- Public Policy & the Gray Lobby – Making Government Work

The program meets one morning per month in November, December, March, April, and May.

Sessions are from 8:30am to 10:30am at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, 331 East 70th St.

Session 3 – **Thursday March 9th:** The Court System – Elder Abuse and Services for Older Adults. This session will feature presentations by Judge Deborah A. Kaplan and Joan Levenson, Esq. from the Office of the Statewide Coordinating Judge for Family Violence Cases. Please RSVP by contacting my office at 212-490-9535, or via email at liz@lizkrueger.com.

Town Hall Meeting on Fighting Overdevelopment in the East 50s:

On Friday, February 10, at 11:30 a.m. the East River 50s Alliance (ERFA) is hosting a Town Hall on encouraging contextual zoning and the need for affordable housing in the East 50s. The event will take place at Plaza 400, Skytop Lounge, 400 East 56th Street.

At the event, I will join Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer and Councilmembers Dan Garodnick and Ben Kallos in addressing the urgent need to keep new real estate development within contextual guidelines, especially on quiet residential side streets.

At present there are no building height restrictions anywhere in the Sutton Place community - the only neighborhood in NYC that is not protected by law against this type of development.

ERFA and these elected officials have co-signed a formal application to amend the NYC zoning law by imposing strict contextual height limits and offering incentives to developers who include affordable housing in their building plans.

The speakers will also address immediate and pressing issues related to a site on East 58th Street that could, "as of right," be developed into a 900-foot-tall luxury residential tower. Affordable housing units are now being demolished on that site.

Q&A will follow remarks. To send a question in advance, email it to info@erfa.nyc, put "Question for Town Hall" in the subject line, and include your name in body of the email.

State of the Borough Address and Activist Fair on February 12th:

On February 12th Borough President Gale Brewer will hold her State of the Borough Address, which will focus on bringing together citizens who are newly motivated to fight for the causes most important to them and the organizations that need citizens' help. There will be a panel discussion on paths to activism, and over a dozen organizing groups will participate in an "Activist Fair" to pitch their work to potential new volunteers. The address will take place at Manhattan Center, 311 West 34th Street.

Please RSVP at

SOTB-2017.eventbrite.com to attend.

Met Council on Housing Meeting: Tenants Movement Under Trump:

The Met Council on Housing will devote their February membership meeting to exploring what the tenant movement under Trump could look like, and where you can fit in to the resistance. This is a great meeting to come to if you are new to Met Council or to organizing, as well as for those who have been around for a while and can share what they have learned. The meeting will take place on Thursday, February 16 at 6:30 p.m. at Met Council's office - 168 Canal St 6 fl, NY, NY 10013. RSVP at http://metcouncilonhousing.nationbuilder.com/met_council_member_meeting_feb_2017. If you need translation or childcare please email Nova@metcouncilonhousing.org. Please bring a snack to share.

Fire Safety Education Event at Upper East Side Rehabilitation and Nursing Center:

The Fire Department is partnering with the Upper East Side Rehabilitation and Nursing Center to provide a fire safety education seminar directed at senior community members. The event will take place on Thursday, February 16, 2017, from 2-4 pm at Upper East Side Rehabilitation and Nursing Center located at 211 E 79th Street, 17th Floor. The Fire Safety Education team will provide a presentation about ways seniors and community members can keep themselves safe from fires. The event will also celebrate the rescue of James Duffy, 81, in the six-alarm fire that took place on 93rd Street in October of last year.

2017-2018 Pre-K Enrollment Period Ends February 24th:

The Pre-K application deadline for the 2017-18 school year is February 24, 2017. All New York City families with children born in 2013 are eligible to apply to pre-K for the 2017-2018 school year. This includes children with disabilities and children whose native language is not English.

A list of programs is available in the Pre-K Directory, which is accessible at

<http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/PreK/Resources/default.htm>. Printed copies will be available at district schools, NYCDOE Pre-K Centers, NYCEECs, Family Welcome Centers, and other locations (e.g. libraries, city agencies, community centers, etc.).

Families can apply to NYCDOE district schools, Pre-K Centers, and full-day NYC Early Education Centers

(NYCEECs) using a single application. You can also apply online at www.nyc.gov/prek or over the phone by calling 718-935-2067.

Important Information for Tenants Who Lost Their SCRIE or DRIE Benefits (or Had Their Benefits Reduced) Due to a Late Renewal:

More than 14,000 seniors and disabled tenants participating in NYC's SCRIE and DRIE rent freeze programs lost their benefits (or had their benefits reduced) since 2011 because they did not recertify on time. Many of these residents had difficulty recertifying due to a disability or physical or mental impairment, and were not provided with reasonable accommodations as required by the federal Americans with Disabilities Act. Thanks to a class action lawsuit filed against the NYC Department of Finance (DOF) by legal services organizations, impacted residents now have an opportunity to have their rents reduced and benefits reinstated. Residents may be eligible to have their rents reduced to their prior frozen rent levels even if they have since moved to other apartments.

The DOF is mailing letters to all tenants who failed to recertify on-time outlining who is eligible to have their benefits reinstated and what steps must to be taken to make this happen. I am pleased that the DOF is proactively reaching out but am concerned that many residents will find the letters confusing or will have moved. The DOF has Disability Service Facilitators who can answer questions about the letters and help eligible residents get their SCRIE and DRIE benefits reinstated. To speak with a facilitator, visit the SCRIE/DRIE Walk-In Center at 66 John Street, 3rd Floor or call 311 and ask to speak with DOF's Disability Service Facilitator.

If you, or someone you know, needs assistance getting lost SCRIE or DRIE benefits restored please feel free to reach out to my office at 212-490-9535 or lkrueger@nysenate.gov.

My staff is also always available to help residents figure out if they are eligible for SCRIE or DRIE and assist with the application and renewal processes.

Free Tax Preparation Assistance:

IRS-trained volunteers are available to provide free tax preparation assistance throughout New York City. I encourage you to take advantage of these services, which can save you money and ensure you avoid getting caught in "Refund Anticipation Loan" scams that many for-profit tax preparers engage in.

AARP is sponsoring a number of locations on the East Side, and there are no age or income restrictions to receive this assistance. Here are some sites in the 28th Senate District where you can get free assistance with your taxes:

58th Street Library, 127 East 58th Street

Telephone: 212-759-7358

Site Hours: Wednesday 11:00am to 3:00pm and Saturday, 10:00am-2:00pm

67th Street Library, 328 East 67th Street

Telephone: 212-734-1717

Site Hours: Friday, 10:00am-2:00pm

Community Church of New York, 40 East 35th Street

Telephone: 212-683-4988

Site Hours: Thursday, 10:00am-2:00pm

Epiphany Library, 228 East 23rd Street

Telephone: 212-679-2645
Site Hours: Thursday, 10:00am-2:00pm

Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, 331 East 70th Street
Telephone: 212-744-5022
Site Hours: Wednesday, 9:00am-1:00pm

Science, Industry and Business Library (SIBL), 188 Madison Ave @ 34th Street
Telephone: 917-275-6975
Site Hours: Tuesday and Wednesday, 10:00am-2:00pm.

Stanley Isaacs Neighborhood Center, 415 East 93rd Street
Telephone: 212-360-7620
Site Hours: Friday, 9:30am-2:00pm

Webster Branch Library, 1465 York Avenue
Telephone: 212-288-5049
Site Hours: Monday, 11:00am-3:00pm except 2/16

New York City also offers free tax preparation either in person or online for individuals making \$64,000 or less.

You can file in person an NYC Free Tax Prep site. Filing is completely free and includes e-filing and direct deposit of your refund. Some sites have income limits. For most sites, you must have earned \$54,000 or less in 2016 to use In Person service. Some NYC Free Tax Prep sites have special services if you are self-employed, are applying for an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number, you are a senior over age 60 with pension or retirement-related question or you need to file or change your return from a previous tax year. At these sites, you will drop off your documents and pick up the completed return later.

You can also complete your tax return online at certain NYC Free Tax Prep sites with help from an IRS certified VITA/TCE volunteer preparer. You must have earned \$64,000 or less in 2016 and have a valid email address to use the Assisted Self-Preparation service.

You can access a map of tax preparation sites at each site and find out which required tax documents you need at nyc.gov/taxprep.

Become a New York State Long Term Care Ombudsman:

The Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY (CIDNY) manages New York City's Long Term Care Ombudsman Program and is seeking volunteers for their program. The Ombudsman works with administrators, staff, family and residents, and serves as an advocate and resource for residents of long term care facilities. The volunteer ombudsman will receive 42 hours of training and be certified by New York State. CIDNY will support each ombudsman with a coordinator and ongoing training. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a volunteer ombudsman, contact Mary Jane Wolper at (212) 812-2913 or mwolper@cidny.org.

Legal Advocacy Clinics At Lenox Hill Neighborhood House:

The Lenox Hill Neighborhood House Legal Advocacy Center Offers assistance on a number of different issues. Here is a list of their ongoing programs and clinics:

- SNAP (formerly Food Stamps) Clinics: Wednesdays from 10am to 1pm at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, 331 East 70th Street. First come, first served. Bring proof of identity, income information, utility bill, proof of housing costs, information on any dependents and if you are 60 or over or on SSI/SSD, information on medical costs. For more information, call [212-218-0431](tel:212-218-0431).
- SCRIE Clinics: call [212-218-0503 ext. 6](tel:212-218-0503) for assistance in applying or recertifying for the Senior Citizens Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) program. The SCRIE clinic is open to tenants city-wide. Please note that due to the volume of calls, it sometimes takes up to two weeks for staff to respond to messages.
- Eviction Prevention: Walk-in clinic, every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month, from 10am to 1pm at 331 East 70th Street, for tenants who live, work, or go to school on Manhattan's East Side above 59th Street and on Roosevelt Island.
- End-of-Life Planning/Advance Directives: volunteer attorneys may be able to assist you with one-on-one counseling and individualized drafting of Advance Directives including Health Care Proxies, Living Wills, Powers of Attorney, and simple, low-asset Wills. If you are interested in being screened for a possible appointment, call the intake hotline at [212-218-0503 ext 4](tel:212-218-0503).
- Health Care Access/Medicare/Medicaid: call [212-218-0503 ext 3](tel:212-218-0503). Find out about Medicare Savings Programs, Medicaid home care, Medicare Part D, Medicaid Spend-down, EPIC and if you are eligible for Medicaid.
- Health Insurance Enrollment: call [212-218-0432](tel:212-218-0432). Assistance with finding and enrolling in an affordable health insurance plan.

And, just across the Park on the Westside: Monthly Housing Clinics and Workshops:

Council Member Helen Rosenthal, Goddard Riverside's SRO Law Project, and the Urban Justice Center co-sponsor monthly housing clinics and workshops at the Goddard Riverside Community Center, 593 Columbus Avenue (between 88th and 89th Streets). On the first Wednesday of each month, from 6pm – 8pm, the clinic offers a presentation on a variety of topics, followed by a question and answer session. Each evening, at least one staff attorney will meet with individuals who are seeking specific legal advice.

For questions, contact the Office of Council Member Rosenthal at (212) 873-0282 ext. 206 or Helen@helenrosenthal.com. Sign-up sheet starting at 6pm each evening.

- March 1, 2017: Residency Requirements for Rent Regulated Apartments
- April 5, 2017: DHCR Overview, including MCIs and IAls
- May 3, 2017: DHCR Rent Overcharges and Illegal Deregulation
- June 7, 2017: Succession Rights

Affordable Housing Opportunities in Manhattan:

Dorie Miller Apartments is now accepting applications for 40 affordable studio and 1-, 2- and 4-bedroom apartments newly renovated at 304 West 152nd Street, 232 West 149th Street, 2797 Frederick Douglass Boulevard & 2472 Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Boulevard in the Harlem neighborhood in Manhattan. Rents for these apartments range from \$822 to \$1,371 depending on income and unit size. To be eligible, applicants must have incomes between \$30,069 and \$76,104, depending on unit size. Preference will be given to Community Board 10 residents for 50% of units, mobility-impaired persons for 5% of units, visual- and/or hearing-impaired persons for 2% of units, and City of New York municipal employees for 5% of units. A full description of the building and application process is available at <https://a806-housingconnect.nyc.gov/nyclottery/AdvertisementPdf/326.pdf>.

Households may elect to submit an application by one of two methods: EITHER online OR by mail. To submit your application online now, please visit NYC Housing Connect at www.nyc.gov/housingconnect and select “Apply for Housing.” To request an application by mail, mail a self-addressed envelope to: Dorie Miller Apartments, 87-14 116th Street Richmond Hill, NY 11418.

Completed applications must be submitted online or returned by regular mail only to the post office box that will be listed on the application. Applications must be submitted online or postmarked by March 31, 2017. Applicants who submit more than one application may be disqualified.

Metrocard Bus and Van Schedule:

The MTA offers MetroCard-related services throughout New York City through mobile buses and vans. Buses provide a full range of services, including applying for or refilling a Reduced-Fare MetroCard, buying or refilling a regular MetroCard, or getting answers to a MetroCard-related question. Vans sell Unlimited Ride MetroCards and Pay-Per-Ride MetroCards, and they refill MetroCards and Reduced-Fare MetroCards. Buses and vans will be in my district on the following dates and locations:

- February 14, 9 - 10:30 am, 92 Street & Lexington Avenue – Bus
- February 14, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm., 86 Street & Lexington Avenue – Bus
- February 14, 1:30 - 2:30 pm, 68 Street & Lexington Avenue – Bus
- February 15, 9 - 10:30 am, 79 Street & 3 Avenue – Bus
- February 15, 11 am - 1 pm, 79 Street & York Avenue – Bus
- February 15, 1:30 - 2:30 pm, 72 Street & York Avenue – Bus
- February 16, 8:30 - 10:30 am, 47 Street & 2 Avenue – Van
- February 16, 1:30 - 3:30 pm, 28 Street & 2 Avenue – Van
- February 21, 9 - 10:30 am, 92 Street & Lexington Avenue – Bus
- February 21, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm., 86 Street & Lexington Avenue – Bus
- February 21, 1:30 - 2:30 pm, 68 Street & Lexington Avenue – Bus
- March 1, 9 - 10:30 am, 79 Street & 3 Avenue – Bus
- March 1, 11 am - 1 pm, 79 Street & York Avenue – Bus
- March 1, 1:30 - 2:30 pm, 72 Street & York Avenue – Bus
- March 2, 7 – 9 am, 90 Street and York Avenue - Van
- March 2, 8:30 - 10:30 am, 47 Street & 2 Avenue – Van
- March 2, 1:30 - 3:30 pm, 28 Street & 2 Avenue – Van
- March 3, 9 - 10 am, 57 Street and 1 Avenue – Van
- March 3, 10:30 - 11:30 am, 57 Street and 3 Avenue – Van
- March 3, 12:30 - 2:30 pm, 68 Street and 1 Avenue – Van

The full mobile MetroCard schedule is available at <http://mta.info/metrocard/mms.htm>. Please note that MetroCard buses and vans do not take credit cards.

Heat Season Rules:

The City Housing Maintenance Code and State Multiple Dwelling Law require building owners to provide heat and hot water to all tenants. Building owners are required to provide hot water 365 days a year at a constant minimum temperature of 120 degrees Fahrenheit.

Between October 1st and May 31st, a period designated as “Heat Season,” building owners are also required to provide tenants with heat under the following conditions:

- Between the hours of 6AM and 10PM, if the outside temperature falls below 55 degrees, the inside temperature is required to be at least 68 degrees Fahrenheit.
 - Between the hours of 10PM and 6AM, if the temperature outside falls below 40 degrees, the inside temperature is required to be at least 55 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Tenants who are cold in their apartments should first attempt to notify the building owner, managing agent or superintendent. If heat is not restored, the tenant should call the City's Citizen Service Center at 311. For the hearing-impaired, the TTY number is (212) 504-4115. The Center is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Complaints can also be submitted online at <http://www1.nyc.gov/nyc-resources/service/1813/heat-or-hot-water-complaint>.