

There are only two more scheduled weeks of session before we go into recess. It is possible that we may come back in the Fall, however, if we do not pass certain critical pieces of legislation now it could be until next year when the legislation is reconsidered.

Please call Governor Cuomo at (518) 474-8390, Senator John Flanagan at (631) 361-2154 and Senator Jeff Klein at (718) 822-2049 now if you want to see New York modernize its reproductive health laws, election laws and create single payer health care.

## MTA

**This week, thousands of F Train riders were stuck in a subway tunnel for almost an hour with no light or air conditioning with temperatures reaching almost 100 degrees.** Occurrences like this break down and other subway delays have skyrocketed since 2012 and there is one reason for this - **an aging infrastructure that has record demand and too little funding.** **As was noted in the New York Times this week, the C line holds the dubious honor of being the oldest continuously operating subway cars in the world.** The Governor needs to allocate additional state resources so that we can upgrade signals and switches throughout the system as well as purchase new train cars that can accommodate more passengers and will break down less frequently.

## **The Child Victims Act & Legislation to outlaw child marriages in New York State**

I am pleased to say that the New York State Assembly passed two very important bills this week to make sure that we protect people that have been abused and children.

I am proud to have co-sponsored the Child Victims Act, which would ensure victims of childhood sexual abuse have the opportunity to bring charges against their abusers in a court of law ([A.5885-A](#)).

The Child Victims Act extends the civil and the criminal statute of limitations and also creates a one-year “window” in which past victims will be able to seek justice in court.

The Assembly bill would amend the criminal procedure law by adding five additional years for criminal charges to be brought – starting the clock at age 23, rather than at age 18 – as well as pushing back the statute of limitations to permit civil actions to be brought up until the victim’s 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. The measure also creates a one-year window for past sexual abuse victims to commence a civil action. Most importantly, this one-year window would permit courts to consider claims by victims which were previously dismissed or were not brought at all due to the limitations previously contained in the law.

In addition, the Child Victims Act would treat public and private entities equally by **removing the current notice of claim requirement for public entities.** Under current law, an individual who plans to sue a public entity must notify the entity of the intent to do so within 90 days.

The legislation would also:

- require judges to undergo additional training for cases involving the sexual abuse of minors; and
- give these revived civil cases a trial preference so they are more rapidly moved forward in court. This recognizes that in many instances, these victims have already had to wait for years to be able to seek justice.

I also co-sponsored a bill that passed this week to outlaw child marriages in New York State by raising the minimum age for marriage to 18 – or 17 with judicial consent ([A.5524-B](#)).

The Assembly’s legislation takes critical steps by abolishing any possibility of marriage for 14-, 15- and 16-year-olds. It would require court approval, pursuant to specified guidelines, under which a judge must consider specific factors, such as the existence of any undue power imbalance and the existence of domestic violence, prior to permitting a 17-year-old to marry.

Shockingly, child marriage is not an uncommon occurrence. Between 2000 and 2010, nearly 3,900 child marriages took place in New York and of those, 40 involved 14- and 15-year-olds. Many were girls wed to adult men, with the marriages arranged by their parents. Coercion, bullying, ostracism and beatings have sometimes been used to force children to marry against their will.

## **In the District**

### **Rain Barrel Giveaway**

The rain barrel giveaway that my office sponsored with the NYC Department of Environmental Protection was an enormous success. We gave away over 100 rain barrels to constituents from around my district. DEP’s Rain Barrel Giveaway Program is part of New York City’s Green Infrastructure Plan

that aims to capture storm water before it can ever enter the sewer system and thereby reduce combined sewer overflows into local waterways. I am proud to have sponsored this important initiative with DEP and look forward to partnering again in the future. **Special thanks to Mary Kay Seery and her Husband Bill Seery for hosting the giveaway at their home in Victorian Flatbush on Sunday!**



**PS 39 Spring Carnival**

I had a great time speaking to the PS 39 PTA at their Spring Carnival on Saturday. I had the distinct honor of introducing one of the great student rock bands at PS 39, Technical Difficulties! The PA at PS 39 did a great job planning the event and I was truly impressed by the performances by the talented students at PS 39!



\*\*\*As always, I am interested in your feedback. If you have legislative ideas or community concerns, please reach out to my office at (718) 788-7221 or email me at [carrollr@nyassembly.gov](mailto:carrollr@nyassembly.gov).

See you around the neighborhood,  
Bobby