



Assemblymember  
**Jo Anne Simon**

52nd District



**Announcements & Upcoming Events**

**March 2018**

**A Message from Jo Anne...**

I am thrilled to announce that [one of my major gun violence prevention bills](#), the Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPO), passed the Assembly with bipartisan support. The school shooting in Parkland, Florida has shaken the country to its core. I am proud that we took a stand with the brave kids in Florida, New York, and across the country who have called on us to act. I hope that this bill is taken up swiftly in the Senate.

Too often, we are able to see the warning signs that an individual close to us poses a risk of serious harm to themselves or to others, but lack a mechanism to prevent unthinkable tragedies such as interpersonal gun violence or suicide. This bill, [A8976](#), empowers families and law enforcement to help prevent these needless gun tragedies by applying to a court to temporarily restrict an individual's access to firearms if the court finds that the individual is likely to engage in conduct that would harm themselves or others. People close to the shooter in Parkland reported their concerns about him to law enforcement, but there was no mechanism for them to act. This bill can change that.

Five states, including California, Washington, Indiana, Connecticut, and Oregon have adopted ERPO laws — and Connecticut has seen a measurable decrease in suicide rates.

A special thanks to the ERPO coalition, including Senators Kavanagh and Hoylman who sponsor the bill in the Senate, and the growing group of ERPO supporters including NYS Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman, New Yorkers Against Gun Violence, the Brady Campaign, the Citizens Crime Commission of NYC, Everytown for Gun Safety, Giffords, Moms Demand Action, Prosecutors Against Gun violence, Gays Against Guns, and other legislators.

The Assembly also passed a number of other gun violence prevention bills, including ones that ensure comprehensive background checks ([A2406](#)), prevent domestic violence abusers from having access to weapons ([A5025](#)), ban bump stocks ([A9958](#)), and close a loophole relating to background checks ([A9978](#)). I applaud my colleagues who carried these bills and the Assembly for taking action to prevent gun violence.

For ways to get involved, please [sign the gun violence research petition](#) on my website, connect with the gun violence prevention advocates, and please join me at the March for our Lives in New York City--and across the country--on March 24, 2018 (details below).

*For more details on the legislative session, please sign up for my email alerts by emailing [simonj@nysassembly.gov](mailto:simonj@nysassembly.gov).*

Sincerely,

**Please Join My Efforts to Prevent Gun Violence: Help Us Reach 25,000 Signatures!**

Over 23,000 people have signed my petition to research and prevent gun violence – can you help me get to 25,000? Please join me, Senators Persaud and Kavanagh, Assemblymember Titone, New Yorkers Against Gun Violence, Gays Against Guns, and the NY Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence in signing our petition asking Governor Cuomo to include \$5 million in funding for a Firearms Violence Research Institute. New York must lead the way in conducting scientific research to better understand and prevent the gun violence that claims 33,000 lives each year. Gun violence is a public health crisis. While other major health and safety concerns such as motor vehicle accidents, heart disease, and

tobacco have rightly received expanded research, far too little research has been conducted on firearm violence. It is clear that common-sense legislation and effective community programs prevent gun violence. But we must do more. To sign the petition, go to my Assembly webpage: <http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Jo-Anne-Simon>

### **March for Our Lives**

On Sat., March 24<sup>th</sup>, the [March for Our Lives](#) will be in cities in every state in the country. Kids and families will march to end gun violence in our schools and in the nation. Many of the students from Parkland, Florida will be marching in [Washington, DC](#). I will be at the [March in New York City](#) at 10am, Central Park West. <https://marchforourlives.com>

### **Women's History Month**

As we celebrate Women's History Month and the progress we've made, we renew our commitment to working for full equality. We pay tribute to the women who pushed back against discrimination and shattered glass ceilings to forge brighter paths for us all. They knew that enacting change was not an easy task, but nevertheless they persisted.

Thanks to fearless New Yorkers, like suffragist Susan B. Anthony and abolitionist Sojourner Truth, we've come a long way since our nation's founding. The courage they possessed has inspired other trailblazing New Yorkers to continue their fight, including disability rights advocate Judith Heumann, who helped develop the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; Gloria Steinem, who co-founded the Women's Media Center; and Ibtihaj Muhammad, who was the first female Muslim-American athlete to earn a medal at the Olympics. The #MeToo movement, created by Tarana Burke, the founder of Just Be, Inc. and director of the Brooklyn-based nonprofit Girls for Gender Equity, has added renewed energy to the fight for equality. The campaign has brought attention to sexual assault and harassment issues that have plagued our nation for far too long.

While the federal administration is hostile to the progress we've made, the Assembly will keep pushing to strengthen women's rights. More than half of minimum wage workers in New York are women, so we raised the minimum wage. We established a paid family leave program so that women aren't punished for taking caring of their families. We will also keep pushing to ensure a woman's reproductive health decisions are hers to make.

**I am thrilled to announce that I helped pass three bills to protect women's rights this week:** the Reproductive Health Act affirms a woman's right to choose in New York State; the Comprehensive Contraceptive Coverage Act requires insurers to continue covering contraception at no cost to the consumer; and the Boss Bill prohibits discrimination against employees based on reproductive health choices (A.1748, A.9957, A.566).

### **Legislative Women's Caucus Roundtable: Sexual Misconduct**

I recently moderated a roundtable on sexual misconduct sponsored by the NYS Legislative Women's Caucus (LWC) with attendees from state agencies, advocates, and my colleagues in the Legislature and the Governor's office. The LWC will continue to discuss sexual misconduct and ways to prevent it from happening, including the need to develop a comprehensive approach to sexual misconduct in NYS.

### **Town Hall: Close Rikers; Brooklyn House of Detention, March 15<sup>th</sup>**

Please join me for this town hall, which I am cosponsoring with Council Member Stephen Levin and many others, on Thurs., March 15<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30-9PM at the Belarusian Church, 401 Atlantic Avenue (at Bond St.). We want to hear from the community given the Mayor's recent announcement about closing Rikers and proposing to expand the Brooklyn House of Detention while the City transitions to a smaller, safer, borough-based jail system. The Independent Commission on Criminal Justice and Incarceration Reform (chaired by former NYS Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman) will explain their report and the need to close Rikers, to be followed by a question and answer period. Please direct questions to Council Member Levin's office: 718-875-5200 or [Gbravo-lopez@council.nyc.gov](mailto:Gbravo-lopez@council.nyc.gov).

### **Neighborhood Spotlight: Carroll Gardens Association**

I had the pleasure of recently meeting with staff and members of the Carroll Gardens Association (CGA). The organization was founded in 1971 and works to foster a community where people of all income levels can live and work. They develop and preserve affordable housing, help local residents connect to social services, and promote community-based economic development. CGA provides services around housing, education, and organizing. They are organizing a child care worker cooperative to develop sustainable wage jobs. They also provide free computer education classes for seniors and community residents.



CGA's Southwest Brooklyn Tenants Union conducts education and advocacy around tenants' rights and housing issues in Carroll Gardens, Cobble Hill, Columbia Waterfront, and Red Hook. Their monthly meetings are open to the public. To learn more, contact [718-243-9301](tel:718-243-9301) or go to: <http://www.carrollgardensassociation.com/>.

### **80 Flatbush Certification – ULURP; Notice of Public Hearing**

The 80 Flatbush project was recently certified by the Department of City Planning, initiating the public review process through the [Uniform Land Use Review Procedure](http://schools.nyc.gov/community/facilities/ecf/default.htm) (ULURP). For the Scope of work and the draft Environmental Impact Statement, go to <http://schools.nyc.gov/community/facilities/ecf/default.htm>. For more information and opportunities to get involved, contact the Boerum Hill Association: <http://boerumhillassociation.org>

Community Board 2 will hold a public hearing on the proposal on Wed., March 28<sup>th</sup>, from 6-9PM, at St. Francis College, Founders Hall, 180 Remsen Street (between Clinton and Court Streets), Brooklyn. You may attend, make comments, or submit written testimony by Fri., March 30<sup>th</sup> via email to [cb2k@nyc.rr.com](mailto:cb2k@nyc.rr.com), fax to: 718-852-1461, or mail to Community Board 2, 350 Jay Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Fl., Brooklyn, NY 11201.

### **Design-Build for the BQE**

The community has been urging Governor Cuomo to allow design-build contracting for the BQE reconstruction from Atlantic to Sands, including the triple cantilever in Brooklyn Heights. Design-Build could save time and money, minimizing impacts on the community. It would streamline this process and, without it, trucks would be compelled to travel through Downtown Brooklyn because the BQE would be unable to support their weight. I am pleased that the Assembly included design-build authorization in its one-house budget bill. While design-build wasn't included in the Governor's initial budget proposal or his budget amendment, I will keep pushing for it in the final budget. To stay informed, connect with the Brooklyn Heights Association, [info@thebha.org](mailto:info@thebha.org), [718-858-9193](tel:718-858-9193), or [www.thebha.org](http://www.thebha.org)

### **2018 NYC Pre-Kindergarten Directory**

Do you have a child born in 2014 planning to enter Pre-K in September? Every NYC four-year-old can start their education with Pre-K for All. You may stop by my office to pick up directories with information on all of the Pre-K programs in the City and how to navigate the application process. Applications are now open and the deadline is Fri., March 30<sup>th</sup>. Directories and information are also available online at [www.schools.nyc.gov/PreK](http://www.schools.nyc.gov/PreK).

**Save the Date: Dyslexia Awareness Day in Albany is April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018.** I am hosting my 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Dyslexia Awareness Day in Albany next month! Stay tuned for more details.

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