



Assemblyman

Andrew Hevesi

Assembly District 28

Dear Neighbor,

This week, I was proud to partner with Assembly Chairpersons Grace Lee and Maritza Davila, **leading 50 of our colleagues in opposition to the President and Congress' budget cuts** to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) via House Resolution 1. I'm deeply grateful to my colleagues who joined this effort on behalf of our shared constituents.

Additionally, my bill [A.65](#) to create a Statewide Supervised Visitation Program passed the Assembly on June 11, 2025. The implementation of this program has become even more necessary due to closures of programs throughout the city.

More information on each of these specific topics can be found below.

As always, if there is anything that my staff or I can do to assist you or your family, please do not hesitate to reach out. Stay well, and I hope to see you soon.

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Andrew Hevesi

Assembly District 28

Response to House Resolution 1

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THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

July 14, 2025

**President Donald J. Trump**  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

**Hon. Nicholas LaLota, NY – 1**  
**Hon. Andrew Garbarino, NY – 2**  
**Hon. Nicole Malliotakis, NY – 11**  
**Hon. Michael Lawler, NY – 17**  
**Hon. Elise Stefanik, NY – 21**  
**Hon. Nicholas Langworthy, NY – 23**  
**Hon. Claudia Tenney, NY – 24**  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

**Dear President Trump and Congressional Colleagues,**

We write today to express our profound disappointment in your vote in favor of the largest cut to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in history.

The bill you voted for **walks away from a 50-year commitment to ensure that low-income children in every community have access to the food assistance they need to grow and thrive**. This will be the first time in the modern history of SNAP that the federal government will no longer ensure that the lowest-income families with children, older adults, and people with disabilities in every state have access to the food assistance they need.

The bill you voted for will raise costs on the families we represent and make it much harder for them to afford the high cost of healthcare and groceries. Millions of people across our state and country will now see the crucial assistance to cover basic life needs terminated or cut substantially due to your actions.

According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), the bill passed by both houses and signed into law by the President **will cut federal spending for SNAP by \$186 billion through 2034, or about 20 percent of the program**.

The bill you supported will also ensure that:

- More than 40 million people who receive basic food assistance through SNAP, including some **16 million children, 8 million seniors, and 4 million non-elderly adults with disabilities** will have their benefits cut.
- **Many children who receive SNAP and are automatically eligible for free school meals and summer EBT**, will see cuts in those benefits as a result of losing the automatic eligibility that comes from receiving SNAP.
- **Most states will be required to pay 5-15% of food benefits.** If a state is unable to make up for these massive federal cuts, it will have to cut its SNAP program (by restricting eligibility or making it harder for people to enroll) or it could opt out of the program altogether, terminating food assistance entirely in the state.
- **More than 5 million people — about 1 in 8 SNAP participants — including 800,000 children and over half a million adults who are aged 65 or older or have a disability**, will live in a household that would be at risk of losing at least some of their food assistance because someone in their household is subject to the significant expansion of SNAP's already harsh, ineffective, and red tape-laden work requirements.
- **More than 2 million people** (indicated by CBO) in total will be cut from SNAP due to the new work requirement provision in a typical month, including:
  - **1.1 million people who live where jobs are scarce;**
  - **900,000 adults aged 55-64;**
  - **270,000 military veterans, people experiencing homelessness, and former foster youth; and**
  - **Hundreds of thousands of parents of children.**
- Benefits are cut by an average of \$100 per month for about **600,000 low-income households – housing an estimated 500,000 children** – through the elimination of an administrative simplification for calculating utility expenses for many households.
- The **27,000 authorized SNAP retailers** throughout the country will be at higher risk of financial hardship, exponentially increasing the likelihood that community residents could see their local grocer close.
- **95 percent of counties with the highest rates of people receiving SNAP have limited access to retailers that accept SNAP benefits**, highlighting the disparities in food access among poorer parts of the country. Even if there are other stores nearby, families receiving assistance can be limited by those that accept SNAP.
- **Rural areas** will be disproportionately impacted, as in these high-risk counties “Some stores in low-income neighborhoods have more than 50 percent SNAP sales. A 20

percent cut to SNAP would make it very difficult for stores like this, in food deserts, to remain open." according to Stephanie Johnson of the National Grocers Association.

- Food assistance for immigrants living lawfully in the U.S. – who have been granted humanitarian protections by the U.S. government including **refugees, people granted asylum, certain survivors of domestic violence and certain victims of sex or labor trafficking** – will be denied.
- Current exemptions from the work requirement to receive food assistance are stripped away from **people experiencing homelessness, former foster youth and veterans**.

It is difficult to put into words how we feel about your intentional vote in favor of literally taking food out of the mouths of New York children, seniors, people with disabilities, veterans, immigrants, people experiencing homelessness, survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking, and children in foster care among others. Quite simply, these cuts are financially unjustifiable and morally indefensible.

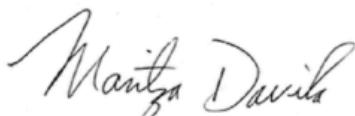
Sincerely,



Andrew Hevesi, NYS Assembly Chair  
Committee on Children & Families



Grace Lee, NYS Assembly Chair  
Asian Pacific American Task Force



Maritza Davila, NYS Assembly Chair  
Committee on Social Services

Assemblymember Tommy John Schiavoni – District 1

Assemblymember Rebecca Kassay – District 4

Assemblymember Phil Ramos – District 6

Assemblymember Kwani O'Pharrow – District 11

Assemblymember Judy Griffin – District 21

Assemblymember David I. Weprin – District 24

Assemblymember Nily Rozic – District 25

Assemblymember Steven Raga – District 30

Assemblymember Khaleel Anderson – District 31

Assemblymember Claire Valdez – District 37

Assemblymember Catalina Cruz – District 39

Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn – District 42

Assemblymember Robert Carroll – District 44

Assemblymember Emily Gallagher – District 50

Assemblymember Marcella Mitaynes – District 51

Assemblymember Jo Anne Simon – District 52  
Assemblymember Phara Souffrant Forrest – District 57  
Assemblymember Jaime Williams – District 59  
Assemblymember Charles D. Fall – District 61  
Assemblymember Deborah Glick – District 66  
Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal – District 67  
Assemblymember Jordan Wright – District 70  
Assemblymember Harvey Epstein – District 74  
Assemblymember Tony Simone – District 75  
Assemblymember Rebecca Seawright – District 76  
Assemblymember Landon Dais – District 77  
Assemblymember John Zaccaro, Jr. – District 80  
Assemblymember Emérita Torres – District 85  
Assemblymember Yudelka Tapia – District 86  
Assemblymember Amy Paulin – District 88  
Assemblymember Nader Sayegh – District 90  
Assemblymember Steve Otis – District 91  
Assemblymember Chris Burdick – District 93  
Assemblymember Dana Levenberg – District 95  
Assemblymember Patrick Carroll – District 96  
Assemblymember Paula Elaine Kay – District 100  
Assemblymember Sarahana Shrestha – District 103  
Assemblymember Didi Barrett – District 106  
Assemblymember John T. McDonald III, RPH – District 108  
Assemblymember Gabriella A. Romero – District 109  
Assemblymember Donna Lupardo – District 123  
Assemblymember Al Stirpe – District 127  
Assemblymember Pamela Hunter – District 128  
Assemblymember Jen Lunsford – District 135  
Assemblymember Sarah Clark – District 136  
Assemblymember Demond Meeks – District 137  
Assemblymember Harry Bronson – District 138  
Assemblymember Karen McMahon – District 146  
Assemblymember Jonathan Rivera – District 149

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Making Visitation Safe and Accessible: Legislation Moves Forward

Assemblyman Hevesi's [bill](#) to create a Statewide Supervised Visitation Program [was covered in The Gothamist](#) this week, as recent budget cuts have left parents involved in custody cases unable to see their children in cases.

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(NEWS)

## NYC nonprofit budget cuts leave some parents in custody cases unable to visit children

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This legislation, which Assemblyman Hevesi passed through the Assembly this session, will create this program through the Office of Victims Services (OVS) and Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) to ensure safe, affordable and reliable visitation options are accessible for parents and families. This bill would:

- Establish a statewide supervised visitation initiative to ensure safe and structured parenting time, especially in cases involving family violence, mental health, or child protection issues.
- Require the Office of Victim Services, in consultation with the Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, to fund and support at least one supervised visitation program per county and expand existing programs.



Assemblyman Hevesi debates A.65 on Assembly Floor

- Mandate counties and NYC to submit annual assessments detailing local needs, program plans, usage data, and projected costs, with an emphasis on affordability

and cultural and language accessibility.

- Require program comply with court orders, offer fee waivers for low-income families, and provide reports to the courts as directed; the Office of Victim Services must also report annually on program effectiveness and make recommendations for improvement. The estimated funding needed for this program according to the Unified Court System is \$25 million.

After the Assembly passed this legislation, which was not taken up in the Senate, 10 advocacy organizations submitted a letter highlighting increasing negative impacts of our current faltering system and the need for this legislation to become law. That letter can be found below:

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## **URGENT LETTER CONCERNING CHILDREN'S SAFETY**

**From: Safe and Supervised Parenting Time Coalition**

**Date: July 15, 2025**

We are writing to express deep concern over the impending closure of Safe Horizon's Supervised Visitation Program (SVP) in the Bronx, Queens and Staten Island due to the lapse in city-contracted funding. This pause will irreparably harm thousands of vulnerable children and families—severing vital parental relationships, intensifying existing trauma, and stripping children of their right to safe and structured time with non-custodial parents.

The Safe Horizon Supervised Visitation Centers are essential resources for vulnerable families, with the Bronx site serving as the only facility of its kind in the borough. All the centers play a crucial role in helping parents comply with court-ordered visitation while maintaining meaningful, monitored contact with their children.

The Children's Law Center, one of the state's largest legal service providers representing children in custody and visitation proceedings, has brought together a Coalition of providers for children. Together, the signatories below are united in profound concern. For decades, we have worked alongside Safe Horizon and other providers to ensure children have access to safe, structured, and nurturing relationships with both parents whenever possible. We see firsthand how supervised visitation reduces trauma, de-escalates conflict, and lays the groundwork for more stable, long-term family outcomes.

Each year, more than 200,000 families turn to New York's Family and Supreme Courts for help navigating custody and visitation. We estimate that in at least 18,000 of those cases, supervised visitation is potentially appropriate—often due to domestic violence, substance use, or serious mental health concerns. Even with current funding, families already face waitlists ranging from two months to over a year. Now, with the Safe Horizon program's closure, these delays will increase, and families will experience further breakdown. When children are cut off from a parent for extended periods, ambivalence turns into fear, and emotional distance becomes estrangement. Children grow anxious and confused, often internalizing the absence as abandonment or rejection.

With this closure, the future of court-involved families in the Bronx, Queens, and Staten Island becomes dangerously uncertain. Judges and families will be left with no good options: proceed with unsupervised visits and risk the safety of children and custodial parent, or suspend visitation altogether, effectively erasing the role of the non-custodial parent. Neither outcome serves the best interests of the child.

Children in Manhattan and Brooklyn will not be spared from the impact of these closures, as families from the Bronx, Queens, and Staten Island will be forced to seek services there. This will overwhelm the already-limited number of supervised visitation providers in the former boroughs, leading to even longer delays before parents and children can safely reconnect.

Let us be clear: the City's temporary lapse in funding has real and immediate consequences. It is the quiet dismantling of a constitutional relationship. When supervised visitation cannot be facilitated for court-ordered cases, children are effectively denied a relationship with their parent without due process—a direct violation of fundamental rights. This is not hyperbole; it is a legal and human reality.

Moreover, while the City's efforts to restore funding through a new procurement process are welcome and necessary, the broader problem is systemic. The City's investment has long served as a band-aid, never sufficient to meet the enormous need for supervised visitation across courts statewide. We are grateful for the City's leadership—but this moment must galvanize broader action at the state level. The State Senate's reluctance to pass the Safe and Structured Parenting Time Bill (A65A/S3938), despite its passage in the Assembly, has left glaring service gaps unaddressed and allowed inequity in access to persist. We implore you to act now.

We are calling on your offices to:

1. **Provide immediate emergency support to prevent the closure of Safe Horizon's Bronx, Queens and Staten Island Supervised Visitation Program** to ensure continued participation in SVP for high-need families.
2. **Fully restore and expand dedicated funding for supervised visitation services across New York City and the state**, alongside transparency and speed in procurement processes to prevent future lapses in essential services.
3. **Champion a \$20 million statewide investment, as proposed in A65A**, to build a comprehensive, culturally responsive supervised visitation system that meets the needs of all New York families—regardless of income or geography.

Children should not be collateral damage in bureaucratic delays or legislative inaction. They deserve access to both of their parents when it is safe to do so and consented upon, and a belief in the systems that are built to protect them.

We urge your immediate attention to this crisis and welcome an opportunity to speak further on the path forward.

**Signed:**



**The Children's Law Center**

**Family Legal Care**  
**Her Justice**  
**Lawyers For Children**  
**NYLAG**  
**Sanctuary for Families**  
**Shalom Task Force**  
**Violence Intervention Program**  
**New York State Coalition Against  
Domestic Violence**  
**Urban Resource Institute NYC**

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