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NY Immigration Coalition

2009 Priority NYS Legislation

Please sign on as a sponsor and vote yes for these bills:

Farm Workers Fair Labor Practices Act

S2247, Onorato: 28 Sponsors; Still in Labor Committee

A1867, Nolan: 17 Sponsors; Passed Labor and Codes Committees & Reported to Ways & Means

Farm workers perform necessary, arduous labor and are entitled to the same workplace protections as other workers. This Act would provide protection under the workers' compensation, unemployment compensation, state disability, wage and hour and the public health laws. The Act would grant collective bargaining rights, require sanitary compliance at farm and food processing labor camps, mandate reporting of injuries, and guarantee at least 24 consecutive hours of rest each week and 8 hour work days plus overtime rates.

Strengthen Rent Regulation/Repeal Vacancy Decontrol

S2237, Stewart-Cousins: 25 Sponsors; Still in Housing Committee

A2005, Rosenthal: 59 Sponsors; Passed Assembly 91-52

The shortage of affordable housing in NYC, Westchester, Nassau, and Rockland is an acute crisis. Rent regulation is the most effective means of preserving affordable housing. However, under vacancy decontrol, over 300,000 rent-stabilized units have been removed from regulation – in some cases by landlords withholding services, inflating or falsifying renovation costs, and harassing tenants to vacate units. Repealing vacancy decontrol is essential to protecting the state's precious supply of affordable housing.

Domestic Workers Bill of Rights

S2311, Savino: 21 Sponsors; Passed Labor Committee & Reported to Codes Committee

A1470, Wright: 40 Sponsors; Passed Labor Committee & Reported to Codes Committee

Many domestic workers immigrate to the U.S. to escape poverty in their country. They are regularly forced to work six-day week, and receive little or no pay. Domestic workers are uniquely isolated and vulnerable, unable to collectively bargain, and often abused, mistreated. Even if a domestic worker leaves their employer, they are not guaranteed time to remain in the U.S. to seek legal redress. The Bill of Rights would institute paid time off and a weekly day of rest, medical leave, health insurance, an annual cost of living adjustment, notice of termination and severance pay for domestic workers.

Medicaid Reimbursement for Interpretation/Translation in Hospitals/Health Centers

S3740, Duane: 13 Sponsors; Passed Health Committee and Reported to Finance Committee

A733, Gottfried: 38 Sponsors; Passed Health Committee and Reported to Ways & Means Committee

Federal, state and NYC laws require health care providers to make language assistance services available to their patients with limited English proficiency ("LEP patients"). Federal matching funds are available to states (five other states already pursue) that opt to provide reimbursement for services under Medicaid in the hospital inpatient, outpatient and emergency department settings and in diagnostic treatment centers. With over 4 million foreign-born New Yorkers and millions of LEP residents, the state can draw down federal aid and reduce language barriers that have been shown to prevent LEP patients from accessing care or result in missed diagnoses, unnecessary surgeries and improper use of medication.

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_____ **Better Schools Act: Reform Mayoral Control for the NYC School System**

Assembly: Heastie is the lead sponsor; pending introduction

Senate: Parker, Savino and Perkins are co-lead sponsors; pending introduction

Amend the law governing mayoral control of NYC public schools to 1) improve check and balances over budgets, policies, and large procurement contracts through an independent central board (with fixed terms) with a narrow majority of appointees chosen by a non-Mayoral entity, as well as, removing the chancellor as a voting member and chair; 2) establish meaningful channels for parents and students to have a voice in decision making including stronger school leader team (SLT) and community education council (CEC) input and the creation of a Center for Parent and Student Service and Empowerment that would build the capacity of our communities to advocate in the school system; and 3) strengthen accountability and transparency of the by authorizing the NYC Independent Budget Office (IBO) and the NYC Comptroller to analyze and audit NYC Department of Education finances, school performance, student achievement and school safety.

_____ **Statewide Inter-agency Language Access Policy**

Assembly: Peralta has a related bill with 13 Sponsors in Government Operation Committee

Senate: Monserrate has a same-as bill with 1 Sponsor in Civil Service & Pension Committee

With millions of limited-English-proficient (LEP) New Yorkers, the state should enact a statewide, inter-agency language access policy that would direct state agencies to provide important documents and signage and interpretation services in several predominant languages.

_____ **Statewide Inter-agency Confidentiality Policy**

Senate: Serrano has a related bill with 8 Sponsors in Codes Committee

Assembly: Peralta has a same-as bill with 5 Sponsors in Government Operations Committee

Similar to NYC Executive Order 41, the state should direct state agencies to maintain confidentiality of immigration status to ensure all New Yorkers are able to access critical government services including law enforcement and benefits to which they are eligible.

For more information and to confirm your support, please contact Jose Davila, Director of State Government Affairs, at 212-627-2227 x241 or jdavila@thenyc.org.

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