



Task Force on Women's Issues

February 4, 2021

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Dear Colleagues,

As the newly elected Chair of the Assembly Task Force on Women's Issues of the 244th Legislative Session, I invite you to our first meeting on February 22, 2021 at 11:00am on zoom. We will hear from the United Nations Commission on Women's Jennifer Cooper on her Report on the UN Women Global Response to COVID-19. I invite you to join in sharing your ideas, interests, platforms, and your collaborative mindset so we can work together to empower women in our communities across our great State of New York.

2021 is going to be the year of the woman with Kamala Harris making history as the first woman and Woman of Color as Vice President of our United States. In the New York State Assembly, we are at a historic high number of representation of women, with over 55 members strong. New York State has a track record of advancing women's issues. That is due in large part to your work amplifying the voices of your constituents' needs, as we pursue further objectives.

Our shared successes are worthy of national headlines. We passed the Reproductive Health Act (RHA) to codify choice into New York law and modernize New York's statutes to protect women's rights; the Comprehensive Contraception Coverage Act (CCCA) to ensure insurance companies cover FDA-approved contraceptive drugs, devices and products; the Boss Bill to prevent an employer's religious beliefs from infringing on women's health care decisions; elimination of the Pink Tax; Pay Equity to close the gender pay gap; and comprehensive paid family leave.

Moving forward, we must confront the important issues of maternal mortality, responding to gender-based domestic violence, protecting female inmates, bolstering adolescent health, and other progressive solutions for the pressing challenges facing women, girls, and their families. I hope you will consider supporting an Equal Rights Amendment to our New York State Constitution that I am proud to have introduced and passed in the Assembly to anchor the rights that we fight to defend and advance everyday.

As we confront the COVID-19 pandemic, we recognize that women are confronting the challenges of unprecedented unemployment rates, housing and food insecurity, gaps in childcare, staggering small business closures, and more. I look forward to hearing from you about how we may effectively work together to address the harmful effects of this pandemic which disproportionately impacts women.

Thank you again for your participation. Welcome to the New York State Assembly Task Force on Women's Issues! I look forward to meeting with you on February 22 at 11:00am for our first meeting! Please contact me at SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov or have a member of your staff contact Cory Hasson at HassonC@NYAssembly.gov to RSVP.

Sincerely,

Rebecca A. Seawright
Chair, Task Force on Women's Issues