

A Final Message of Thanks from State Senator Velmanette Montgomery

Dear Neighbor,

It has been an honor to serve as your representative in the New York State Senate. Together, we have weathered numerous storms and have fought hard for the landmark victories that we have achieved throughout the years. Your support and partnership inspired me to be the best possible leader and your voice in Albany.

I am proud to have been the second African-American woman to serve in the New York State Senate, following in the footsteps of the Hon. Constance Baker Motley.

Thank you for all of the support that you have given me and for being the wind propelling me forward. I am proud to have represented a vibrant district with constituents and neighbors who are actively engaged and on the front lines of every battle.

I look forward to seeing you in the community and continuing to fight by your side as a citizen advocate on the issues important to our City, State and Nation.

I hope you will join me in welcoming the new voice for the 25th Senate District, New York State Senator-Elect Jabari Brisport.

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,
Senator Velmanette Montgomery



NEW YORK
STATE SENATE

New York State Senate
Albany, NY 12247

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NEWS FROM STATE SENATOR VELMANETTE MONTGOMERY

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CAUCUS WEEKEND 2020



THANK YOU TO THE 25th SENATE DISTRICT FAMILY

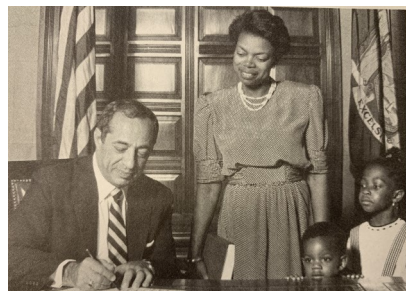


SENATOR MONTGOMERY'S LEGISLATIVE LEGACY TO NEW YORK STATE

Senator Velmanette Montgomery concludes her historic tenure in the New York State Senate at the end of 2020. Despite spending the majority of her career as a member of the Minority Conference, Senator Montgomery successfully passed legislation to transform the criminal justice, juvenile justice and child welfare systems. Senator Montgomery's legislative accomplishments include:

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

CHILD INTERNET PROTECTION ACT - Prohibits the dissemination of indecent materials to a minor through the use of any computer communication system. (Chapter 600)



CHILD PROTECTION ACT - Enables children who may be victims of parental abuse to discuss their mistreatment privately with a social worker, without the intervention of their parents. (Chapter 110)

Governor Mario Cuomo signs Senator Montgomery's bill into law. The Senator is pictured with her four-year-old son William and friend, Kamiko Jones.

CHILD REMOVAL NOTIFICATION ACT - Requires notice to parents prior to the issuance of directing temporary removal of a child. (Chapter 527)

DAYCARE PROVIDERS PROTECTION ACT - Prevents the NYS Office of Children and Families from posting the home address or personal information of day care providers on the Internet. (Chapter 354)

EXPANDING DEFINITION OF CHILD VICTIM - To include victims less than 18 years old who suffer physical, mental or emotional injury, loss or damage because of any violation committed against or witnessed by a child. This legislation ensures children who witness a violation committed against somebody else, but are not victims of the crime themselves, are eligible for compensation and assistance. (Chapter 178)

FAMILY SUPPORT CENTERS - Establishes family support centers for youth at risk of being, or alleged or adjudicated to be juvenile delinquents or someone in need of supervision; as well as authorizing reimbursements to the localities for this effective model of community-based intervention. (Chapter 56)

INCARCERATED PARENTS BILL - Authorizes a foster care agency to delay the filing of a petition to terminate the parental rights of a parent who is incarcerated or participating in a residential substance abuse treatment program when such agency believes that filing a termination petition is not in the best interests of the child. (Chapter 113)

KIN CARE BILL - Amends the Family Court Act to expand the definition of people who are eligible to petition the court to become foster parents and receive kinship resources to include those who are related to the child by blood, marriage, adoption, half-sibling, or fictive kin, those with a close, positive relationship. (Chapter 434)

NATIVE AMERICAN CHILD WELFARE ACT - Allows Native American tribes to use their own tribal courts in foster care and child custody proceedings. (Chapter 462)



Senator Montgomery visits the Seneca Nation of Indians to celebrate passage of her landmark bill to ensure children and families receive culturally sensitive treatment in family court proceedings.

PARENTAL NOTIFICATION BILL - Requires notice to parents prior to issuance of temporary removal for a child. (Chapter 527)

PARENTAL RIGHTS REINSTATEMENT BILL - Allows for the reinstatement of a person's parental rights under certain circumstances. Under this measure, with the consent of the petitioner, respondent, and respective child in the original termination proceedings, an individual may apply to have their parental rights reinstated. Under the circumstances that 2 years have passed since the issuance of the order, the petition against the respondent must not have been based on severe and or repeated child abuse, and the child must be under the jurisdiction of the family court and

have a permanency goal other than adoption. (Chapter 343)

RIGHT TO APPEAL ADOPTION APPLICATION DENIAL - Requires notification upon denial of application by any prospective adoptive parent of such person's right to a denial hearing. (Chapter 720)

SPCC Bill - Repealed the special powers granted to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (SPCC), which are in direct conflict with the authority of State and City Child Protective Services. (Chapter 329)

STATEWIDE CENTRAL REGISTER OF CHILD ABUSE AND MALTREATMENT (SCR) REFORM - Reforms the SCR to increase the standard of proof for unfounded and indicated reports of neglect, the admissibility of reports of cases on neglect and makes a differentiation between child neglect and child abuse. It also increases the standard regarding evidence for child neglect, which will ultimately relieve individuals from the prospect of being persecuted for the "crime" of being poor. This bill also updates fair hearing rights as it relates to employment for subjects of maltreatment reports. (Chapter 56)

TEMPORARY SPOUSAL SUPPORT BILL - In conjunction with temporary and final orders of protection in family court and calculation of maintenance cap in family and Supreme Court to favor the family who has young children and the gap that may come from the lapse in this determination. (Chapter 355)

YOUTH AGING OUT OF FOSTER CARE - Amends the Family Court Act to allow for extensions in permanency hearings for successive periods up to 6 months until the respective youth reaches the age of 21; if said youth is over the age of 18, his or her consent is required before discharging. The measure also contains provisions to allow those who were discharged within the past 24 months and have failed to consent to continued care, the ability to seek family court leave to return voluntarily to foster care. (Chapter 342)

CIVIL RIGHTS

BEREAVEMENT LEAVE FOR SAME-SEX COUPLES - Prohibits employers from discriminating in the granting of funeral or bereavement leave to its employees who are in a committed same-sex relationship. (Chapter 423)

EQUAL PAY BILL - This bill would implement a State policy to ensure public employees receive fair and equal pay for substantially similar work. This policy is extended to all employees regardless of age, race, creed, color, national origin, sexual orientation, disability and more. (Chapter 741)

CRIMINAL & JUVENILE JUSTICE

ANTI-SHACKLING LAW - Prohibits incarcerated pregnant women from being handcuffed and shackled while in labor. (Chapter 411 and Chapter 570)

BARBERING BILL - Prevents New Yorkers from being arbitrarily denied a license to barber or practice cosmetology just because they spent time in prison. (Chapter 469)

FAMILY VISITATION BILL (ASHLEY'S LAW) - Ensures families have easy access to correctional visitation information. (Chapter 286)

GED BILL - Requires the Department of Correctional Services to provide incarcerated individuals with an opportunity to complete a GED prior to release. (Chapter 431)

PAROLE TRANSPARENCY BILL - Requires the NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) to publish its appeal decisions on a public website within 120 days and provide either printed or electronic copies to correctional facilities throughout the state on a quarterly basis. (Chapter 44)

CEMETERY BILL - Authorizes maintenance and repair of cemeteries as a condition of a sentence of probation or of conditional discharge of a juvenile delinquent or person in need of su-



Senator Montgomery with Eric Blair and his guide dog.



pervision for offenders under sixteen years of age. (Chapter 575)

CENTRAL PARK FIVE BILL - Requires the video recording of any juvenile subject to interrogation when taken into custody by a police officer without a warrant. Such video recording is to include the giving of any required notice to the child, as to his or her rights and the child's waiver of any rights. A copy of the recording will be subject to discovery. (Chapter 299)

JUVENILE COURT FEES BILL - As part of Raise the Age reform, this law allows the Court to waive certain surcharges and fees when it is determined that the defendant is under 21 years of age and demonstrates either that the fee would impose an undue hardship, it prevents successful reintegration, or that the interests of justice require it. (Chapter 144)

RAISE THE AGE - Raises the Age of criminal responsibility and prosecution of crimes in NYS from 16 years old to 18 years old, differentiating adult offenders from youth who have made mistakes. Provides for youth offenders to obtain age appropriate services to further aid them in their development as young adults; and establishes a new classification for youth offenders called Adolescent Offenders (AOs) who are aged 16-and-17-years old who have committed felony-level offenses. (Chapter 59)



EDUCATION

AMISTAD COMMISSION BILL - Establishes and creates the 19-member *Amistad Commission* with responsibility for reviewing Statewide school curricula regarding slavery and other programs on slavery and African-American history. (Chapter 404)

GIFTED AND TALENTED TEST FEES - Prohibits a school district from charging a fee for testing gifted students. (Chapter 536)

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. COMMISSION BILL - Creates a State Commission to organize the Annual Commemoration and celebration of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (Chapter 811)

SHIRLEY CHISHOLM STATE OFFICE BUILDING - Designates the State Office Building at 55 Hanson Place in honor of Shirley Chisholm, the first African-American woman elected to the United States Congress. (Chapter 15)

ENVIRONMENT

TIME-OF-DAY METERING BILL - Requires utilities to offer time-of-day metering to residential customers to conserve energy and save consumers money. (Chapter 303)

HEALTH

ADOPTEE RIGHTS BILL - Restores unrestricted access to original birth certificates for all adult adoptees. Since 1936, access to certified, long-form original birth certificates has been barred without a court order. (Chapter 491)



BLAIR BILL - Expands the protection of guide and service dogs. (Chapter 150)

CPR BILL - Requires at least one employee at a child day care facility or family day care home to be trained and certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and first aid. (Chapter 334)

FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION BILL - Spearheaded campaign and co-sponsored legislation to ban female genital mutilation of minors in New York State. (Chapter 618)

LEGALIZATION OF NEEDLE EXCHANGE PROGRAMS - Spearheaded the campaign to stem the spread of AIDS among intravenous drug users and co-sponsored legislation that legalized needle exchange programs.

MATERNITY CARE COVERAGE - Establishes mandatory minimum maternity care and coverage. (Co-sponsor - Chapter 56)

MATERNAL MORTALITY BILL - Requires information on possible complications from pregnancy that can endanger the life or health of the newborn or mother be provided to her. (Chapter 76)

NURSE PRACTITIONER LICENSURE BILL - Spearheaded and co-sponsored legislation to authorize the title and expand the scope of practice and licensure for nurse practitioners in New York State to address the shortage of primary care doctors. (Chapter 293)

NURSE PRACTITIONER BILL - Authorizes physician assistant or nurse practitioner to supervise and direct withdrawing of blood to help rural hospitals and emergency rooms to meet their round the clock staffing commitments. (Chapter 618)

NURSE PRACTITIONER DEATH CERTIFICATE BILL - Allows nurse practitioners to sign death certificates. (Chapter 153)

SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH FUNDING BILL - Creates a personal income tax check-off box for donations to the School-Based Health Center (SBHC) Fund. (Chapter 293)

HOUSING

DEED THEFT PROTECTION BILL - Provides greater protections for owners of homes that are in default or foreclosure and strengthens laws regulating distressed property "consultants" who provide services to prevent property loss. (Chapter 167)



CONSTRUCTION NOTIFICATION BILL - Requires the NYC Department of Buildings (NYC DOB) to provide written notification to adjoining property owners when an application for construction approval is submitted and requires NYC DOB to provide proof of such insurance and a copy of the permit to owners of adjoining property thirty days before construction or demolition work. (Chapter 217)

MIF BILL - Authorizes the Mortgage Insurance Fund to provide 100 percent mortgage insurance on certain preservation loans to multi-family residential buildings to preserve affordable housing after the 2008 housing crisis. (Chapter 246)

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

80 HANSON PLACE - Authorizes the Commissioner of General Services to lease 80 Hanson Place to not-for-profit organizations. (Chapter 707)

COMMUNITY BOARD BILL - Allows community boards throughout the five boroughs of New York City to apply for and receive brownfield opportunity area grants. (Chapter 386)

CREDIT UNION BILL - Enables credit unions to receive the same economic incentives as banks to operate in underserved communities through the Banking Development District (BDD) program. (Chapter 629)

DANCEWAVE BILL - Provides financing and construction of capital facilities assistance to Dancewave, a Brooklyn-based non-profit dance organization, to build a new community arts and cultural center at 182 4th Avenue in Brooklyn. (Chapter 406)

PROCUREMENT BILL - Supports New York's primary industry, agriculture, by requiring the State's Procurement Council to include a member of a non-profit organization that represents New York's farming communities. (Chapter 452)



Senator Montgomery, Assemblywoman Wright and Dr. Al Vann celebrate passage of the Construction Notification with members of the Brownstones of Bedford-Stuyvesant.