

DISTRICT UPDATE

Happy Pride Month

Happy Pride Month to all! This month, we honor and celebrate the LGBTQ+ community for all that it has to offer. As a member of the Equality Caucus in Congress, Dan is committed to standing up for the full acceptance of the LGBTQ+ community. Here is to celebrating the community while also continuing the fight for equality not only this month, but year round.

Dan Hosts a Jewish American Heritage Month Celebration in Borough Park

Dan hosted an event last month to commemorate Jewish American Heritage Month at the Amico Senior Center in Borough Park. Dan presented Lt. Ira Jablonsky, Dolly Rabinowitz, and Yidel Perlstein with Commendations in the Congressional Record for their service to New York's Jewish Community.

Dan Urges NY-10 Universities to Shelter Migrants

Dan is pressing public and private universities in New York City to audit campus space that would be suitable for migrant shelter. Dan sent a letter to State University of New York Chancellor John B. King, Jr., City University of New York Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez, New York University President Andrew Hamilton, and the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (on behalf of NYC Colleges and Universities) urging them to work cooperatively with local, state, and federal leaders to help provide housing for asylum seekers, as well as assist with pro bono legal services for migrant families. The letter was joined by Congressman Jamaal Bowman.

Dan Fights for National Paid Sick Leave

Dan joined Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro and U.S. Senators Bernie Sanders and Patty Murray in introducing the Healthy Families Act to establish a federal paid sick days policy. The Healthy Families Act would allow workers to earn up to 7 job-protected paid sick days per year, establish a simple method for calculating accrued sick time, and allow employers to utilize existing policies on paid sick leave as long as they meet the minimum number of days allowed.

Dan Pushes for Expanded SNAP Assistance Programming to Provide Hot Meals

Dan joined Congresswoman Meng in introducing the Hot Foods Act to expand access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). This expansion will allow participants to purchase hot foods such as prepared rotisserie chickens, hot sandwiches, and soups. Currently, SNAP limits eligible purchases to foods for take-home preparation and consumption or cold prepared foods.

Dan Pushes for University School Meals Program at the Federal Level

Dan joined U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders and Congresswoman Ilhan Omar in introducing the Universal School Meals Program Act. This legislation would provide free breakfast, lunch, and dinner to every student, expanding on the success of the universal free lunch programs implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic and bringing long-term relief to millions of food-insecure families.

Dan Fights Food Insecurity

Dan joined Congressman André Carson in introducing the Food Deserts Act, which would help eliminate food deserts by supporting grocery stores in underserved communities. This new legislation would provide grant funding to purchase, open, and support the operation of grocery stores in food deserts, which are areas with limited access to affordable, healthy, fresh food. In addition to this, this bill would also require grant recipients to provide healthful foods and raw fruits and vegetables at or below market averages and prioritize applicants who hire workers from within the community, source from local urban farms and gardens, or provide educational information about a healthful diet.

Dan Advocates for Expanded Arts Education Access

Dan joined U.S. Senator Cory Booker and Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez in introducing the Guarantee Access to Arts and Music Education (GAAME) Act of 2023. This legislation would further incentivize the use of Title I federal funds to improve access to music and the arts for disadvantaged and low-income students, taught by certified arts and music educators.

USPS Mail Issue

Dan sent a letter to United States Postal Service Postmaster General Louis DeJoy urging him to address the rise in mail theft from USPS mailboxes in New York City. Our office received numerous complaints over the past weeks from concerned New Yorkers who have had their vital documents stolen from USPS mailboxes. Having checks, medical documentation, passports, or other identifying information stolen puts New Yorkers at serious risk. It is imperative that the United States Postal Service do everything in its power to ensure that mail, property, and information transported through the USPS is secure. Residents experiencing mail theft should report the incidents by going to their local NYPD precinct or dialing 911. New Yorkers can also file a report with the Postal Inspection Service by calling the hotline at 1-877-876-2455 or by going to uspis.gov/report so that federal crimes can be investigated and addressed.

Dan Calls for Creation of the Office of Gun Violence Prevention in the Department of Justice to Address Gun Violence

Dan joined Representative Maxwell Frost (FL-10) to call for the creation of the Office of Gun Violence Prevention. The Office of Gun Violence Prevention would permanently make ending the epidemic of gun violence a national priority by creating a federal Office of Gun Violence Prevention within the Department of Justice to coordinate federal efforts to protect Americans from the public health crisis of gun violence. The Office of Gun Violence Prevention Act would bring together those most impacted by gun violence and leaders from agencies across the federal government to advance policy recommendations, accurate data and research, State and local outreach and education, cross-sector coordination, and maximize and coordinate programs and services related to preventing gun violence. The Office of Gun Violence Prevention would be directed to identify gaps in data needed for gun violence prevention research, convene an advisory council composed of gun violence survivors, make policy recommendations, and maximize the Administration of the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. The Office of Gun Violence Prevention Act serves as the first step to a coordinated, effective response to the gun violence epidemic in the United States. Dan is a Vice Chair of the House Gun Violence Prevention Task Force.

Congressman Dan Goldman Fights for a Green New Deal

Dan joined Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (NY-14) in cosponsoring the Green New Deal to advance a bold agenda to fight the existential threat of climate change. The Green New Deal would address climate injustice, economic inequality, greenhouse gas emissions, and create millions of good-paying union jobs. The Green New Deal builds off the success of the Inflation Reduction Act to address the twin crises of climate disaster and economic inequality. Dan understands that climate change presents some of the most pressing dangers to our future and is committed to doing everything in his power to create a clean energy future for our families. Communities across NY-10 were devastated by Hurricane Sandy a decade ago and remain vulnerable, not only to the hazards of increasingly frequent and more dangerous coastal storms, but also inland flooding from heavy rains. The dangers of these risks are multiplied further by more than 150 years of industrial pollution that has only recently begun to be addressed.

Passport Backlog

The U.S. Passport Agency is facing a huge surge in passport applications as many Americans resume international travel and work to replace passports that expired over the last few years. This flood of applications has created a backlog, and processing times are increasing. This has also increased the demand for in person appointments at passport agencies, making it very difficult to secure one. If you have travel scheduled in Fall or Winter 2023, please apply for your passport renewal now. Current processing times are 7-9 weeks for expedited processing and 10-13 weeks for routine service. This means you should count on being without a passport for 3-4 months, as you will have to mail in your old passport with your renewal application. Passport applications already increase during the summer months so it is likely processing times will continue to increase. You can find the current processing times and everything you need to know about submitting a passport application or renewal at <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports.html/>

Travel tips

- Before you book international travel find your passport, make sure it is undamaged, not expired and remains valid long enough to be eligible for your trip.
- Check that your passport remains valid long enough to be eligible for where you would like to travel. Many countries require that your passport be valid for 3 or 6 months from your departure date. This is called passport validity. Check online to see what the required passport validity is for the country you would like to travel too.
- Child passports are only valid for 5 years so don't forget to check their passports as well.
- Consider paying for expedited shipping and processing if you do need to apply for a new passport. This will help get your passport to the agency more quickly and once it is approved it will be shipped back within 1-2 days.
- If you are 2 weeks out from your trip and you have not received your passport, reach out to our office. If you wait until the last day or two to reach out there is a lot less we can do than if you give us the full two weeks.
- Be advised that passport agencies do not take walk in appointments. You must have a scheduled appointment. If you go to the Hudson Street location, our office will not be able to get you in the door.