



PAC Update: Actions since the last meeting, and related updates

State/local:

Gus reviewed recent state/local actions that are listed on the NYSPHA website at <https://nyspha.org/NYS-Policy-and-Advocacy>

- **2/29/2024** - NYSPHA joined 69 other statewide organizations in signing on to a urging DEC and NYSERDA to incorporate buildings sector emissions limits in their cap-and-invest program proposal put forth in compliance with the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA).
- **2/15/2024** – NYSPHA sent a letter to the Senate and Assembly Health and Environmental Conservation Committee chairs urging them to restore critically needed funding for the NYS Children’s Environmental Health Centers (NYSCHECK) in the FY25-26 one-house budget bills. Status unknown currently.

Federal:

Gus reviewed recent federal actions that are listed on the NYSPHA website at <https://nyspha.org/federal-policy-and-advocacy>

- **02/26.2024** – NYSPHA signed on to a letter sponsored by, co-signed by over 300 other organizations, to the Senate leaders Schumer and McConnell, cc’ing all Senate members, asking them to support the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act of 2024 and the Child Tax Credit provision it includes. It passed the House. Gus assumes it will have passed the Senate, but will confirm if this is true.
- **02/22/2024** – NYSPHA signed on to a letter sponsored by the American Cancer Society and other New York-based organizations to House Democratic leader Jeffries (D-NY) and Senate Majority Leader Schumer (D-NY) urging that they strongly support the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)’s proposed rules to prohibit the sale of menthol cigarettes and flavored cigars. Has been held up probably until after the election. Per Jeannie Orr: *“The menthol ban proposal went to President Biden. He was supposed to make a decision in December. He postponed until March. Most likely it will be kicked down the road again.”*

If members hear about other opportunities for PAC to support, or alerts to share, or if you hear of mentions of NYSPHA advocacy positions, let Gus know.

If you have a bill of interest, also let Gus know.

<p>Public Health Lobby Day being planned in May</p>	<p>Gus: Public Health Lobby Day is being planned for May. Date pending: hopefully late May. NYSPHA received \$5,000 in advocacy money from APHA for this. NYSACHO and NYSARH are partners. Probably a Tuesday or a Wednesday. Would involve getting there by 10 AM and attending appts in small groups for Legislators/or staff in their offices. This is a NYSPHA sponsored event.</p> <p>Tentative issues for discussion:  - support for local health departments,  - education on the need for funding for rabies and childhood lead poisoning prevention programs,  - closing the gap on flavored e-cig enforcement,  - immunizations.</p> <p>We would like to get a good representation of NYSPHA members there. Registration link, materials and food will be provided.</p>	
<p>NYSACHO Update</p>	<p>Crissy: Busy with visits to Legislators today, not able to attend.</p>	
<p>Climate Change Special Interest Group (SPIG) update</p>	<p>Susan Harris:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• She heard on NPR: Nationally, in 2023, US pumped more oil than ever before and more than any country in history, and banks continue to fund fossil fuel companies. “It feels like we are regressing and not progressing”.</li> <li>•</li> <li>• Next Climate SPIG meeting coming up this Friday; she is sorry for the late notice</li> <li>• Climate education bill, which has been presented in PAC previously: NYS Ed says we don’t need a law, but we need an appropriation. Lobby Day March 27. Susan will be there as a former educator and activist. Susan invites anyone interested to join. Susan will look for a sign-up sheet and sent to Gus.</li> <li>• Spring conference May 1-3. For the conference, NYSACHO/NYSARH, NYSPHA collaborating to encourage all members to “walk the walk”: asking members to send photos of their efforts. Will be shown in continuous loop at the conferences with a prize-winning opportunity for attendees. Emails going out shortly.</li> <li>• Focus Groups on Climate Change for High Schools continue: Buffalo School System, 2<sup>nd</sup> largest school system in NY after NYC, suggests two groups for their Focus Group participants: one for original Buffalo Area students, and one for immigrant</li> </ul>	<p>If you want to join the Climate Workgroup contact Susan at sharri6g@gmail.com</p>

	<p>attendees. After qualitative data is looked at, Susan will share findings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunities for advocacy around NYSPHA’s climate priorities were sent to the entire NYSPHA membership list:</li> </ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <a href="#"><u>Email your NYS Assemblymember today, urging them to pass the Climate Change Superfund Act.</u></a> Probably separate than the budget, as assembly did not include this in their One House Budget.</li> <li>2. Participate in a 3-day call relay Wednesday the 13th through Friday the 15th targeting Governor Hochul, Speaker Heastie, and Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins. <a href="#"><u>Here is the sign up spreadsheet.</u></a> A script and further instructions will be provided after you sign up. Susan says calls only take a minute and with the script are very easy: “It’s a nothingburger”</li> <li>3. <a href="#"><u>Join us in Albany on March 20th to fight back against environmental injustice, and mobilize for the Climate, Jobs &amp; Justice Package.</u></a></li> </ol>	
Sovereign Debt Stability Act.	<p>Melissa Puicon-Healy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• S.5542 (Rivera)/A.2970 (Fahy). Sovereign Debt Stability Act. NYSPHA drafted a Memorandum of Support (MOS) for the bill combined with one other. APHA requested NYSPHA to get involved. Concern has been that other countries are asking for debt relief and are seeking funding from private creditors, resulting in high interest loans, creating extended debt and forcing them to renegotiate their debt to those countries’ detriment. Many creditors (almost half) are NY-Based. Many New Yorkers are originally from these countries, because poverty in these countries increases immigration. Some of these countries produce products purchased in New York and this results in higher costs for items. This bill seeks to allow these countries to have fair and equal loan terms that won’t exacerbate their debt by forcing creditors to accept the same terms as public lenders. Gus will send MOS with the minutes.</li> </ul>	
Upcoming Advocacy Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Press Conference and Lobby Day in Albany on March 26 dedicated to Ending Youth Access to Flavored E-cigarettes</b> in NYS with NYSACHO and other partners. We will continue to push for its inclusion in the budget, while also teeing the bill up for Committee advancement right after the budget is completed if not in the budget. If you would like to come, please <a href="#"><u>Register</u></a> here</li> </ul>	

	and let Gus know.	
Bills NYSPHA is supporting with Memoranda of Support	<p>Gus showed the policy memos of support currently posted on the NYSPHA website. This is a long list of bills before the Legislature and continues to grow. Please visit the website to review them: <a href="https://nyspha.org/2024-NYSPHA-State-Budgetary-and-Legislative-Goals">https://nyspha.org/2024-NYSPHA-State-Budgetary-and-Legislative-Goals</a></p> <p>Other Bills of interest to PAC members: Let Gus know if you have any bills of interest to you for NYSPHA to advocate for.</p>	Let Gus know if you have other bills of interest that you recommend PAC support
NYC update	Kavitha: This weekend Kavitha will send her NYCPAC survey out. She is in Boston now, has been shuffling before NY and Boston.	If interested in joining or have suggestions for how to increase attendance, contact Kavitha at: <a href="mailto:kpd2102@gmail.com">kpd2102@gmail.com</a>
PAC Chair	Gus will be retiring from his term on NYSPHA Board, and as a result will step down as PAC chair, but will remain an active PAC member. A new PAC Chair is needed, and that person must be a NYSPHA Board Member. If you are interested in being PAC chair and are on the Board, let Gus know. If you are interested and are not on the Board, you must first run for the Board. Gus can tell you the process. Members expressed much gratitude for Gus' excellent work and are glad he is staying involved.	
Other business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Next PAC meeting is Wednesday April 10, 2024</li> </ul>	

### Attendance Log

PAC Members	Jul '23	Aug '23 No mtg	Sept '23	Oct '23	Nov '23	Dec '23	Jan '24	Feb '24	Mar '24	Apr '24	May '24	Jun '24
Gus Birkhead, chair	x		x	x	x	x	x	X	x			
Maryam Albarakati	x					x						
Faith Angels (NYSACHO intern)								x	x			
Grace Ayoub	x			x								
Nadia Banks	-											
Nisha Beharie	x			x	x				x			
Lindsay Black	-											
Kelly Bonnar	-											
Claudia Calhoon	-			x	x	x						
Natalie Charles	-											
Sofia Charles												
Makini Chisolm-Straker	-											
Ava Choi	-											
Sally Courtright	-											
Pennie Cuevas	x			x	x	x	x		x			
Kavitha Das	x			x		x	x	X	x			
Jalika Diallo	x				x		x					
Monica Diamond-Caravella							x		x			
Cristina Dyer-Drobnack (NYSACHO)	-		x	(Robert Viets) x			x	X				
Sarah Evans				x	x	x	x	X				

Phillip Gioia	-		x		x		x	X				
Karree-Lyn Gordon	-											
Sean Haley	-							X				
Van Cleary-Hammerstedt	-											
Susan Harris	x			x		x	x	X	x			
Naomi Harris Tolson	-											
Emily Hayes	-				x		x	X				
Lovina John	x		x	x	x		x	X	x			
Adriann Johnson	x			x			x					
Leana Kalinowsky	-											
Diane Kolak	-											
Namita Kulkarni (intern)				x			x					
Kayla Liszewski	-											
Karis McGregor												
Sarah Merritt	-											
Heather McGrane Minton	x		x		x		x					
Ellen Morehouse	-											
Abigail Mosenthin	-											
Nika Norvila	x		x									
Jeanie Orr									x			
Lana Pasek												
Alayza Penn-Williams				x								
Sylvia Pirani	-		x		x		x	X	x			
Melissa Puicon-Healey	x		x			x	x		x			

Mandy Qualls (NYSARH)	x			X	x	x	x	X	x			
Mel Ray	x					x	x	X	x			
Judy Rightmyer	-							X	x			
Craig Rijkaard	x		x	x	x		x	X	x			
Marie Sonia Saint Rose-Bienvil				x		x		X				
Marc Rosenblatt	-											
Carol Ryan	x			x	x	x	x	X	x			
Ashanda Saint Jean	-											
Jean Sale-Shaw	-											
Andréa Sonenberg	x		x		x	x	x		x			
Marie Sonia	x		x									
Daniel Tam	-											
Muhammed Teks Tekanyi	x		x		x							
Carol Wanyo	-						x					
Patti Wukovits	x											
Namrata Yadav	-											
Rick Yang												
Moria Byrne Zaaloff	-											
Jamie Zelig	x			x		x	x	x				
Lucy Zheng (intern)							x	x				