



**FRANCESCO'S
FOUNDATION**

**PRESS
2025**



www.francescosfoundation.org



**NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY
MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION
submitted in accordance with Assembly Rule III, Sec 1(f)**

BILL NUMBER: A1962

SPONSOR: ANDERSON

TITLE OF BILL:

to amend the penal law and the education law, in relation to enacting "Francesco's law"; and providing for the repeal of certain provisions of the penal law relating to safely storing rifles, shotguns, and firearms

PURPOSE OR GENERAL IDEA OF BILL:

This bill allows for penalties associated with the failure to safely store rifles, shotguns and firearms in the presence of a minor resulting in injury

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS:

Section 1: Establishes the short title "Francesco's law"

Sections 2-6: Define the degree of penalties related to failure of storage in the presence of a minor

Section 7: This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it have become law

JUSTIFICATION:

Between 2016 and 2021, suicides accounted for 36% of firearm-related deaths among children aged 10 to 19. Francesco tragically took his own life on October 21, 2021 with an unsecured firearm. He was just 17 years old and had been the victim of malicious rumors and cyberbullying because of his sexual orientation.

Implementing and enforcing safe storage laws promotes a culture of responsible gun ownership. It educates gun owners about the importance of safety measures and encourages them to adopt best practices in firearm storage, contributing to a safer society overall. Access to firearms increases the risk of suicide. Studies have shown that individuals are less likely to attempt suicide with a firearm if it is securely stored and inaccessible. Safe storage practices can therefore be a crucial component in suicide prevention efforts. Furthermore, 66% of unintentional fatal firearm shootings involving children occurred when the firearm was being handled or shown to someone else.

PRIOR LEGISLATIVE HISTORY: New legislation.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS FOR STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS: None

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it have become law

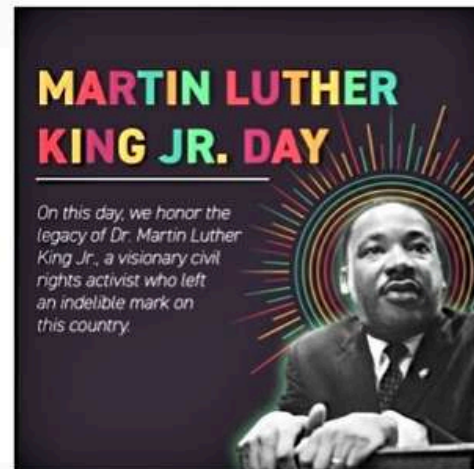
Rebecca Seawright

ASSEMBLYMEMBER



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

On January 20, we celebrate one of the greatest activists and advocates for social justice in our nation's history: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. His movement resulted in the passage of monumental legislation, including the Civil Rights Act of 1964, outlawing discrimination in public places such as schools, businesses, and places of employment; and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, outlawing racial discrimination in the process of voting and registering to vote. We can all celebrate his life and legacy by considering what we can do to extend a compassionate hand to our neighbors today and throughout the year.



This week in Albany we joined the Governor for the State of the State address outlining our state's priorities. Notably, Governor Hochul announced legislation to protect seniors against financial fraud and to expand energy affordability programs to reduce the financial burden of energy costs. Special guests including the New York Liberty performed in The Egg at the Empire State Plaza.

As a reminder, our office will be closed this Monday, January 20, in observance of the legal federal holiday, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Our district office will reopen on Tuesday, January 21, at 9:30 am.

As always, please consider our office your resource.

Phone: 212.288.4607
Email: SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca A. Seawright". The signature is fluid and cursive.

REBECCA A. SEAWRIGHT

**Introducing Jennifer Allsop & Diana Cochran, Co-Founders of
Francescos Foundation, to Prevent Teen Suicide**



Assembly Member Seawright, cosponsor of "Francesco's Law," introduced Francesco's Foundation co-founders Jennifer and Diana to establish penalties for failure to safely store rifles, shotguns, and firearms in the presence of a minor resulting in injury.

Seawright Joins Call for Federal Administration to Publish the Equal Rights Amendment

Assembly Member Seawright is a Member of the Bipartisan Pro-Choice Legislative Caucus and signed onto the letter sent to President Biden to add strong support to the broad coalition to add the federal Equal Rights Amendment as the 28th amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Part of the letter reads, ***"By allowing the ERA to take its rightful place, as the 28th Amendment to the Constitution, we would be guaranteeing countless Americans with access to the care and freedom that they need and deserve. This bold step would inspire legal challenges and could potentially be subject to action by the courts, especially the U.S. Supreme Court. We must do all that we can to assert our rights as they come under attack."***

News You Can Use



Dear Neighbor,

I hope you enjoyed a festive and warm Thanksgiving with your loved ones.

Tomorrow, Saturday, December 7th, we are hosting a no-cost community shredding in partnership with Upper Green Side. Bring your old papers and documents to the 82nd Street Green Market between 1st and York Avenue from 10 AM to 1 PM. Join us!

We are hosting a holiday toy drive to support the New York Center for Children and asylum seeker families in our neighborhood. From now through Thursday, December 19th, donate new and unwrapped toys at our 1485 York Avenue district office between 78th and 79th St.

The MTA is holding public webinars about the Congestion Relief Zone tolling program which will begin on January 5th, 2025. Attend on December 10th, 12th, 16th, or 19th to learn the latest information. [Sign up here.](#)

Phone: 212.288.4607
Email: SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov

Sincerely,

REBECCA A. SEAWRIGHT

Tomorrow, Sat. Dec. 7: No-Cost Community Shredding

The Latest News



I was pleased to meet with Jennifer Allsop and Diana Cochran of Francesco's Foundation. We discussed legislation I am sponsoring on teen bullying and cybersecurity alongside our shared priority of strengthening mental health laws.



New York Lawmakers Introduce “Francesco’s Law” For Safer Gun Storage

JANUARY 28, 2025



Assemblymember Khaleel Anderson and State Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal joined gun control advocates from Francesco’s Foundation, Everytown for Gun Safety, Brady.

Including Giffords Law Center, New Yorkers Against Gun Violence, Moms Demand Action and Students Demand Action and Newton Action Alliance to announce the introduction of their new legislation to mandate secure storage of firearms and hold those who do not do so accountable (A.1962/S.3385).

The legislation is named after Francesco, a 17 year old New Yorker who took his own life after gaining access to an unsecured firearm. The introductory event was held on January 28th, what would have been Francesco’s 21st birthday, on the Million Dollar Staircase at the New York State Capitol in Albany. The legislation, which would bring New York State in line with the gold standard for secure storage legislation, is intended to help prevent tragedies like the one experienced by Francesco and his family.

About Francesco’s Law

Francesco’s Law focuses on prevention and promotes cultural change while ensuring accountability for extreme negligence. Key provisions include:

- **Secure Storage Requirements:** Mandating that all firearms be secured with locked containers, trigger locks, or other safety devices when not under an owner’s immediate control. There are escalating penalties for failure to securely store firearms if there is a minor or person prohibited from owning a firearm in the home, if such a person actually accesses the firearm, and if harm results from that access.
- **Accountability Measures:** Class C felony provisions apply only in extreme cases when access by a minor or other prohibited person results in a fatality.

The Need for Change

- 4.6 million children in the U.S. live in households with unsecured, loaded, guns.
- LGBTQ youth are 4-5 times more likely to attempt suicide than their peers.
- In states with Child Access Prevention laws, there is a proven decrease in accidental shootings and suicides involving firearms. This bill will strengthening and expanding NY’s storage law to be among the best in class in the US.
- Approximately 76% of school shooters acquire firearms from their own homes or those of relatives or friends.
- In 2022, CDC recorded that the first time on the record firearm suicide rate among black children and teen exceeded that of white children and teens
- A 2019 U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center Report on targeted school violence found that planned incidents perpetrated by current or former students using weapons had been obtained for the specific purpose of causing others harm at school.

About Francesco

TRENDING

STYLE

How To Create Unique Earring Designs That Sell Well

POLITICS

Mayor Adams And Commissioner Mayuga Secure Over \$2.6 Million For Workers

POLITICS

Immigrant Advocates Demand NYC Public Healthcare Providers Continue To Deliver Services To All NYers

ART

Harlem’s Alicia Keys Honored With ‘She Is The Music’ Barbie Doll

STYLE

Sabyasachi Mukherjee: Calcutta Cool Meets Harlem Heat

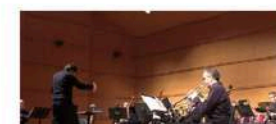
LIVE YOUR LIFE.
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988
 LEARN MORE
 988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE NYC Health
 ERIC L. Adams Mayor
 Andrew M. Mayuga Commissioner

LATEST POSTS



HEALTH

Notify NYC: In Support Of The New York Road Runners Washington Heights Salsa, Blues, And Shamrocks 5K



Francesco was a brilliant, happy, kind, and talented young man who grew up in Southampton, New York. An honors student fluent in English and Italian, he performed violin at Carnegie Hall and the Lincoln Center with the Metropolitan Youth Orchestra and achieved a remarkable SAT score of 1520. But despite his accomplishments, Francesco's life was tragically cut short on October 21, 2021, when relentless bullying over his bisexuality at the Stony Brook Prep School and access to an unsecured firearm from his second home led him to take his life. He took his life in the early hours of October 21st, 2021 after biking to Little Plains Beach in Southampton with a shotgun in his backpack. He was only 17 years old. His last words, found on his phone, read: "Goodbye, oh world of insurmountable beauty."

"Francesco's death was not inevitable—it was preventable," said Diana Cochran, Francesco's mother and cofounder of Francesco's Foundation. "This law isn't about punishment; it's about prevention". Safe gun storage should be as automatic as buckling a seatbelt or installing a smoke detector. We owe it to our children to create a culture of safety and responsibility. I would not want any other family to suffer in the way my family has and I know had this law been enacted while Francesco was alive he would be here today." "This isn't just a legal issue; it's a community issue," Cochran added. "Gun owners want to protect their families, and safe storage practices help achieve that goal. Together, we can make safe gun storage a cultural norm and save lives."

"Today, on Francesco's 21st birthday, I join Diana Cochran and Jennifer Allsop in urging my elected colleagues to pass Francesco's Law," said Assemblymember Khaleel Anderson. "Secure gun storage is essential for protecting children and families from preventable tragedies. From 2016 to 2021, 36% of firearm deaths among children aged 10 to 19 were suicides. Moreover, 66% of unintentional fatal shootings of children occurred when the shooter was playing with or showing the gun to another person. These tragic statistics are linked to negligent storage. We must pass Francesco's Law to honor Francesco and the countless other victims of gun violence."

Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal said: "Since 2015 there have been over 3,500 unintentional shootings by children, resulting in over 1300 needless deaths. Many of these shootings have been able to occur because the guns these children used were not properly stored in their own homes. That's why Assemblymember Anderson and I have introduced Francesco's Law (S.3385) to bring New York's secure gun storage law up to the gold standard met by other states like California and Massachusetts, by requiring all gun owners to securely store their guns when they are not being used or carried. Studies have shown that households that lock up their guns and ammunition have an 85 percent lower risk of unintentional firearm injuries among children and teens. Francesco's law, named for a young New Yorker who lost his life because of an improperly stored firearm, will help save lives and make all New Yorkers safer."

"Francesco's Law will provide lifesaving protections for our children and young adults from the tragic consequences of unsecured firearms," said Assemblymember Rebecca A. Seawright, co-sponsor of the bill. "I am proud to co-sponsor, with Assembly Member Cunningham, this critical legislation introduced by Assembly Member Anderson. The data could not be clearer: A teen in the United States takes their life with a firearm every 7 hours; they are less likely to attempt suicide if the firearm is inaccessible. The status quo cannot stand. This bill provides a common-sense solution that will protect young New Yorkers."

"We have some of the strongest gun safety laws in the country here in New York – but a comprehensive secure storage law has been one of the missing pieces to keep our communities safe," said Jimmy Dougherty, a volunteer with the New York chapter of Moms Demand Action. "Secure storage promotes common sense, responsible gun ownership that keeps guns out of the hands of children and other unauthorized users – and it saves lives. Alongside our gun sense champions and other gun safety advocates today, we're working towards a safer future where our communities have the necessary tools to prevent tragic instances of gun violence."

"As the leading cause of death for children and teens in the United States, firearm injuries demand urgent, bold action. 'Francesco's Law' is a critical step in addressing the devastating consequences of unsecured firearms, especially in homes and vehicles where minors or prohibited persons can access them," said Carol Wakeman, a Board Member of Newtown Action Alliance. "If the Sandy Hook shooter's mother safely secured her AR-15 then 26 children and educators would still be alive today. With 76% of school shooters accessing guns from their own homes or relatives' homes, safe storage laws like this are essential to saving our children's lives and protecting our communities. We applaud the introduction of this common-sense measure and urge lawmakers to prioritize the safety of our children and families by passing 'Francesco's Law' without delay."

"Time and again, we've seen the devastating consequences of not having strong safe storage laws. Too many families have endured the heartbreak of losing loved ones because firearms were too easily accessible," said Sean Holihan, GIFFORDS State Legislative Affairs and Law Enforcement Director. "New York needs comprehensive legislation to prevent tragedies involving firearms. With guns now the leading cause of death among our youth, it's time for leaders to pass Francesco's Law and prioritize protecting lives."

"Secure storage laws save lives. Period. With 30 million children living in homes with guns, firearms must be stored securely – locked, unloaded, and separate from ammunition," Kris Brown, President, Brady. "If just 50% of households with children switched from keeping their guns unlocked to storing all firearms locked, more than 200 youth suicides and unintentional deaths could be prevented each year. Not only will secure storage laws help protect our children, they will help decrease instances of firearm suicide and firearm theft. Brady is deeply grateful for Diana and Jennifer's work in honor of Francesco in creating Francesco's Law, which will mandate safe storage and protect young folks. Securely stored firearms should be the norm, and with Francesco's Law, we are one step closer to changing the culture surrounding firearm storage."

Francesco's Foundation is calling on lawmakers, educators, healthcare providers, and community leaders to support Francesco's Law and join the movement for safer, more responsible gun ownership. The Foundation is also urging all New Yorkers to advocate for the passage of this life-saving legislation.

About Francesco's Foundation

Francesco's Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing gun violence and supporting marginalized youth. Founded in memory of Francesco, the Foundation focuses on advocacy, education, and community engagement to create a safer, more inclusive future for all children.

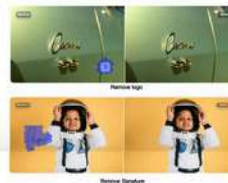
For more information on Francesco's Law or to get involved, please visit francescosfoundation.org.

Continues 42nd Season
Celebration From The
Renaissance To The
21st Century



BUSINESS

Why Some Businesses Succeed
While Others Fail – Key
Differentiators



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Removal Tool



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BUSINESS

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ART

Brooklyn: Celebrate Black History
Month At Brooklyn Children's Museum
During Midwinter Recess

POLITICS

Governor Hochul Greenlights
Environmentally Damaging Fracked
Gas Pipeline Expansion