

## Senator Adriano Espaillat: December 3, 2014 Update

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**Hearing on NY Presbyterian's ER Care:** On Wednesday, December 10, Senator Espaillat will be holding a hearing over concerns regarding the quality of care provided in New York Presbyterian Hospital's Emergency Room. While the hospital is known for providing cutting-edge care, it is well established that members of the surrounding Upper Manhattan community do not have the same experience when they go to the emergency room for urgent care. This hearing will provide an opportunity for patients, advocates, and any interested party to discuss the challenges the ER is facing in an inclusive, transparent setting, and identify solutions for improving conditions.



**Senator Espaillat Urges CUNY to Divest from Fossil-Fuel Companies:** As gridlock in Washington continues to block action on climate change, the movement of divesting pension fund and endowment investments from environmentally-damaging corporations offers a compelling approach for the urgent change we need. Large states like New York and institutions like CUNY must lead the charge toward eliminating our dependence on fossil fuels.

**President Obama's Executive Order on Immigration:** This year, we are thankful for the courage our President displayed by taking action on immigration reform. While holidays often bring difficult emotions for immigrants unable to be with their loved ones in person, the executive order on immigration reform signed last week will make reunification for millions of families possible. For some, it will be the first time they have seen their parents, children or loved ones in decades. While there are still significant steps that need to be taken to properly implement this new policy, President Obama's executive order is a step in the right direction.

**Central Park Speed Limit Reduced to 20 mph:** After multiple incidents this year of pedestrians being struck by cyclists in Central Park, as part of the city's Vision Zero goal, the speed limit for Central Park has been reduced from 25 miles per hour to 20 miles per hour. This reduction in speed, which comes with improved signage marking upcoming pedestrian crossings and increased enforcement and education efforts, will significantly improve pedestrian safety in Central Park.

**NYS Court Allows Tenants to File Class-Action Lawsuits over Illegally Deregulated Apartments:** A recent court decision allows tenants who have been overcharged by their landlords on a class-action basis. This makes it easier for tenants, who may not know they live in a rent-regulated apartment, to sue a landlord who has illegally deregulated an apartment and charged market rates.