

# Senator Adriano Espaillat: March 5, 2014 Update

**Contact Info:** David Baily, Regional Director  
(212) 544-0173 / [dbaily@adrianoespaillat.org](mailto:dbaily@adrianoespaillat.org)  
5030 Broadway, Room 701, New York, NY 10034



## Senator Adriano Espaillat applauds Mayor's Proposed Municipal ID Card for Undocumented Immigrants

For immigrant families in New York City whose undocumented status leaves them vulnerable to abuse and exploitation by unethical employers, landlords and scam artists, Mayor de Blasio's municipal ID card will change lives for the better. Under our current system, immigrants' inability to obtain a government ID excludes them from services most people take for granted, and makes it harder for them to provide for their children.

But with incredible momentum in Albany and across the country, we can't let up the fight to accomplish what 11 states and the District of Columbia already have: passing legislation giving immigrants the opportunity to earn legal driving privileges. When we look across the country and see our neighbors in Connecticut, big states with major cities like Illinois and California, and a deep red state like Utah all taking this sensible step forward, there is no reason why the issue remains unaddressed in New York.

As comprehensive immigration reform remains stalled in Washington, we applaud Mayor de Blasio's commitment to helping vulnerable communities. Once in place, this initiative will help dispel the baseless and xenophobic arguments opponents have used to block this needed reform for too long.

It is unacceptable that hardworking immigrants are made to break the law in order to commute to work or take their kids to school. Providing undocumented immigrants the opportunity to obtain drivers licenses will ensure that all New York drivers are properly credentialed, educated and operating registered, inspected and insured vehicles, making our roads safer and benefiting all New Yorkers."

**Senator Espaillat strongly support Mayor de Blasio's UPK proposal** to sufficiently fund quality full-day pre-k and afterschool programs for middle school students throughout New York City. The benefits are clear: improved high school and college graduation rates, long-term savings in public finances, reduction in placement in special education, and a significant decrease in violent crime.

These programs will be funded by a 0.5% increase in taxes on New York City residents earning more than \$500,000 annually, generating a dedicated funding source to guarantee program stability. Any tax increase requires approval from the state legislature, which is why Senator Espaillat is telling Albany #letNYCdoit.

**LG Update:** Senator Espaillat, a representative of Protect the Palisades, and an attorney from the Natural Resources Defense Council briefed Upper Manhattan residents on the latest developments across the Hudson. There remain two vigorous court cases, and mounting opposition from NJ town governments as well as many representatives here in New York. Sen. Espaillat is joining an *amicus* brief, and presenting a resolution on the Senate floor. Join us on Sat., 3/8, for a Day of Action. (Info: <https://actionnetwork.org/forms/join-us-on-march-8>).



**Demanding Action from PSC on landlines:** Following numerous complaints about service interruptions and repair delays, Sen. Espaillat blasted Verizon, and called on the NYS Public Service Commission to take immediate action. "As a provider of a service that our community relies on for our safety, health, and business transactions, Verizon has a responsibility to ensure that its customers receive a basic level of service. I am asking Verizon Communications to provide both an immediate- and long-term plan on how to repair and maintain reliable telephone and internet service in Upper Manhattan." Phone service has since been restored. The PSC fined Verizon \$100,000.

*If you are experiencing phone problems, let our office know!*

