



**NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
2023-24 STATE LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGET PRIORITIES**

IMMIGRANT RIGHTS

Access to Representation Act (ARA)

S999 (Hoylman-Sigal)/A170(Cruz)

Ensures right to legal counsel for all immigrants facing deportation in New York. Mandates that any immigrant, meeting income requirements, who has a case before an immigration judge has a right to a State-appointed lawyer.

\$100 million State allocation needed this year:

- **\$55 million to launch the first year of the Access to Representation Act.**
- **\$35 million to increase other critical immigrant legal services, including the Liberty Defense Project.**
- **\$10 million to meet emergency legal support for asylum seekers and other immigrants.**

New York For All

(S.03076/A.02328)

Prohibits State and local officers from enforcing federal immigration laws, funneling people into ICE custody and sharing sensitive information with ICE.

Coverage for All

(S. 2237 / A. 3020)

Expands the State-funded Essential Plan, which provides quality, affordable health insurance to low-income New Yorkers, to include undocumented immigrants ages 19 – 64.

\$345 million State allocation to provide the expansion of New York’s Essential Plan.

Note: We urge elected officials to continue to advocate for a 1332 waiver from the Federal government, which will free up federal funding to support this health care coverage expansion.

Unemployment Bridge Program

(S3192/A4821)

Creates a permanent unemployment program for workers currently excluded from NYS Unemployment Insurance. This Unemployment Bridge Program will provide temporary wage replacement for eligible undocumented workers, formerly incarcerated people re-entering the workforce, cash earners and self-employed workers.



\$500 million annually to support the Unemployment Bridge Program. The bill includes a new **Digital Ad Tax Act** which would tax ad services from companies with gross digital advertising revenues of \$100 million+. A part of this tax revenue will be used to fully support the Unemployment Bridge Program.

Office of New Americans (ONA) Expansion

\$20 million State allocation to ONA: to expand geographically and provide improved services for the 4.4million immigrants living in New York State. (Current ONA budget is \$8 million).

Language Access

Introduce new legislation to further expand current language access policy:

- **Expand language access mandates** to additional State agencies including DMV and State Education Dept.
- **Allow regional variations in current language access policy:** Based on census data, allow each region of the State to add non-English languages spoken in their region to the State's current language access policy.