



*News Release from*  
**SENATOR BRIAN X. FOLEY**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **SENATOR FOLEY & ASSEMBLYMAN THIELE HOST SUFFOLK DELEGATION LOBBYING FOR SOCIAL SERVICES REFORM**

*Legislator Browning, County Executive Levy, and civic leaders join Foley, Thiele and other legislators in advocating for "quality of life" issues*

ALBANY, NY – Senator Brian X. Foley (D – Blue Point) and Assemblyman Fred Thiele (R – Sag Harbor) hosted a Suffolk County delegation advocating for reform of social services laws. The delegation was led by Suffolk County Legislator Kate Browning, and included County Executive Steve Levy, Dept. of Social Services (DSS) Commissioner Janet DeMarzo and various civic leaders.

The bi-partisan meeting focused on taking on housing problems faced by towns and hamlets throughout Suffolk County. Foley and Thiele have sponsored a package of bills that holds landlords receiving money from DSS accountable and forces them to abide by town codes and regulations.

"I am proud to sponsor legislation that will finally reform social services laws, protect vulnerable individuals receiving social services assistance, and restore the quality of life in communities throughout Suffolk County," said Foley. "By implementing common-sense measures that require landlords receiving DSS funding to maintain their property and treat tenants fairly, we can revive blighted neighborhoods and uplift our communalities."

"I have worked for years with County Legislator Kate Browning and community leaders to stop the profiteering of unscrupulous landlords that prey on both our neighborhoods and needy residents," said Thiele. "Today's meeting marks real progress towards the enactment of new laws that will make New York State a partner with Suffolk County and the Mastic/Mastic Beach/Shirley community in achieving the goal of improving our quality of life."

To date, Foley and Thiele have introduced the following legislation:

- S4322 – Requires landlords of housing accommodations rented to recipients of public assistance and care to file with the local department of social services statements attesting to the housing accommodations meeting all building codes, rules, and laws of municipality such as accommodations are located within.
- S4323 – Requires the commissioner of social services to ensure that all recipients of public assistance reside in housing that is in compliance with the building codes, ordinances and regulations of the municipality in which such housing accommodation is located.
- S4272 – Directs the commissioner of social services to implement a policy whereby the department shall not make multiple monthly payments for rental housing costs attributable to unrelated public assistance recipients residing at the same residence or address, so as to pay more than twenty percent above the fair market rental value of such single-family housing; provides certain exemptions.

- S5496 – Provides that local commissioners of social services shall notify local law enforcement agencies when a homeless sex offender is placed in temporary emergency housing.

Civic leaders and Suffolk County officials spoke of the urgent need to address social services and their misuse in communities throughout Suffolk. Assembly members Marc Alessi, Phil Ramos, Keith Wright (Chairman – Social Services Committee), Lou Tobacco (Ranking Member – Social Services Committee) listened to testimony from constituents and answered questions about social services law. Joining the bi-partisan discussion was Senator Velmanette Montgomery, who chairs the Social Services Committee in the Senate.

“Today’s meeting stemmed from years of efforts from civic advocates and elected officials, including legislation I sponsored in the county legislature” said Suffolk County Legislator Kate Browning. “I am pleased to work with Senator Foley and Assemblyman Thiele in reforming social services law and holding predatory landlords who scam the system accountable.”

“I’m pleased to work with my legislative colleagues on Long Island to hold landlords accountable and ensure that quality of life in Suffolk County remains high,” said Assemblyman Marc Alessi.

Notable members of the delegation hosted by Foley and Thiele included Roland Hampson, Deputy Commissioner of Suffolk County DSS; Dr. Paul Casciano, Superintendent of William Floyd School District; Robert Vecchio, President of William Floyd Board of Education; Jack Reilly, St. Joseph the Worker; Robert DeBona, Mastic Beach Property Owners Assoc.; John Rodgers, Greater Bellport Coalition; Delia Mckernan, Smith Point Beach Property Owners Assoc.; Frank Fugarino, Pattersqaush Creek Civic Assoc.; John Sicignano, Mastic Park Civic Assoc.; Tawaun Weber, Greater Gordon Heights Civic Association; and Sharieff and Lisa Marie Hubbard, Gordon Heights Chamber of Commerce.