

SWEAT Update: Help Get Protection Against Wage Theft Passed This Legislative Session

The current New York State legislative session ends on June 10, so little time is left to work for passage of SWEAT (Securing Wages Earned Against Theft) legislation that would counter wage theft. Opposition from the Hospitality Alliance, a membership organization of restaurant and bar owners, now threatens passage of this important legislation that would give workers tools to discourage wage theft.

The most important actions to take now are:

- Call Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins at (518) 455-2585 and House Speaker Carl Heastie at (518) 455-2585 to urge them to pass the SWEAT legislation by June 10 without weakening the tools it gives workers subjected to wage theft. If you prefer to contact them via e-mail, write to Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie [here](#). Write to Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins [here](#)
- Join State Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal (chief sponsor in the Assembly), State Senator Jessica Ramos (chief sponsor in the Senate), workers and advocates on Wednesday June 2 at 5:30 at the SWEAT press conference in front of Gov. Cuomo's office at 633 3rd Avenue between 40th and 41st streets. You may RSVP by calling (212) 358-0295.

Wage theft, as explained in previous articles of this newsletter, is the illegal withholding of wages from workers, for example when employers do not pay workers for all the hours

that they have worked or do not pay overtime as required by law. You can also get more information at sweatnys.org, by sending an email to sweatcoalition@gmail.com or calling (718) 600-0793.

Both State Senator Robert Jackson and State Senator Brian Benjamin are co-sponsors of the SWEAT bill in the Senate, [S2762](#). State Assemblymember Daniel O'Donnell is not currently listed as a co-sponsor of the SWEAT legislation [A766](#) in the State Assembly. We urge all our state representatives to push for passage of the SWEAT bill this session and vote for it.