

Today's Lead: Cuomo to Push Abortion Rights Legislation

Posted on Jun 03, Posted by [David Howard King](#) Category [The Eye-Opener](#)

Gov. Andrew Cuomo is [set to introduce](#) his "Women's Equality Act" legislation that includes a measure that will change state law to allow abortions after 24 weeks to protect a woman's health. Federal law already allows such abortions but the legislation is likely to set up a major battle in the state senate. Cuomo aides and advocates have identified a number of Senate Republicans who they hope to sway to vote for the legislation. The Assembly will likely pass the legislation with little trouble but Republican Senate Leader Dean Skelos has said he is steadfastly opposed. The legislation also includes measures to fight human trafficking, provide equal pay for women and implement stricter punishment for sexual harassment in the work place. The urgency to pass major pieces of legislation during the last month of session has [united abortion rights advocates and campaign finance reform groups](#) that are trying to pressure the Senate Independent Democratic Conference to bring the measures to a vote.

Weekend Roundup

After three days of intense meetings and arbitration the New York State education commissioner imposed a teacher evaluation system on New York City schools. New York was the last district in the state to put such a system into place. The plan is unique compared to others in the state because it leaves a large part of implementation of the evaluations up to each school. ([The New York Times](#)) The city teacher's union lost out on a push to have representatives on a committee that will implement the plan. (

[New York Post](#)

) The city lost \$250 million in state education aid for failing to meet earlier deadlines on an evaluation system. The next mayor could overturn the new system. (

[Wall Street Journal](#)

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The city saw a surge of gun violence over the weekend as 25 people were shot in 48 hours. Staten Island was the only borough not rocked by gun violence as 12 people were shot in Brooklyn, eight in the Bronx, and four in Queens. One person was shot to death in broad daylight in Manhattan. ([The Daily News](#))

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[Bronx Struggles to Escape Its Image](#) (NY Times)

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