

May 19, 2022

Foreword by the 21st Century Antitrust Act Cosponsors

New York is a state of entrepreneurs, where the American Dream is still very real. But for years, we've seen the businesses that make up our local downtowns and business districts struggle to survive. Despite their hard work and ingenuity, we've heard from small business owners in our districts who are struggling to keep their doors open. The real threat to small businesses' survival is not because they cannot compete, but because decades of misguided policies have tilted the scales in favor of corporate concentration and monopoly power.

Recent data on small businesses openings and closings create a troubling picture of small firms' struggles in the face of monopoly abuses. New York lost more than 13,000 small businesses between 2019 and 2020, before the pandemic put many more independent shops and restaurants out of business.

We aim to change this. This is why we are proud cosponsors of the 21st Century Antitrust Act – a bill gaining momentum in the New York Assembly and Senate.

The 21st Century Antitrust Act would end dominant companies' abuse of small businesses, workers and communities in New York, and help tilt the playing field back towards the entrepreneurs and start-ups that make New York great. As the recent downturn in small businesses show, time is of the essence. We support this act because we support local, independent businesses in our districts and our state, and we urge other Assemblymembers to do the same.

Sincerely,



Senator Michael Gianaris



Assemblymember Robert C. Carroll



Assemblyman Richard N. Gottfried



Assemblymember Chris Burdick



Assemblymember Jeffrey Dinowitz

