



**NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLYMAN FELIX W. ORTIZ
CHAIR, CITIES COMMITTEE
CHAIR, PUERTO RICAN AND HISPANIC TASK FORCE**

Legislative Highlights for the Week of February 28, 2014

**ORTIZ CALLS FOR \$2 BILLION BOND ACT TO HELP CITIES REBUILD
Winter Storms Leave Water Pipes, Sewage Systems and Roads in Disrepair**

http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2014/02/ny_lawmaker_to_propose_2_billion_bond_act_to_help_syracuse_other_cities_with_ag.html#incart_river_default



Dealing with an unprecedented 115 water main breaks; Assemblyman Felix Ortiz joined **Syracuse Mayor Stephanie Miner** in a tour of her city this past week to help find a way to pay for the ever-increasing cost of infrastructure repairs. As Chair of the Assembly Committee on Cities, Ortiz has been working with mayors across the state to determine how to address problems on a wide scale level. "We are investing in new industries, manufacturing and economic development growth in our cities. We must be just as committed to rebuilding antiquated infrastructure systems, to sustain communities and protect the safety of our citizens," said Ortiz. The Assemblyman also toured the City of Utica this week with **Mayor Robert Palmieri**.



**Dream Act Passes Assembly
Drawing Closer Equal Opportunity for Access to
College Aid for Children of Immigrants**

The Assembly passed the "Dream Act" last week allowing college bound children of undocumented immigrants to apply for tuition assistance to attend college. The bill faces a difficult fight in the Senate where it failed last year, but supporters are determined to see it passed into law. Assemblyman Ortiz, Chair of the Puerto Rican and Hispanic Task Force calls the bill "a fiscally smart and humane plan that will ensure a better future for a generation of new Americans."



**SEIU 1199 WORKERS RALLY
IN SUPPORT OF RIGHTS OF
NURSING HOME RESIDENTS**

Local 1199 SEIU workers rallied in Albany this week to bring attention to the need for funding to support the care of nursing home residents. They seek to enroll more people in the Medicaid program, when entering a nursing home, to ensure that they will be properly placed in a managed long term care plan. Also on the agenda was the need for funding for recreational therapy to help residents restore their independence of living skills that they may have lost when suffering a stroke or other debilitating inflections.



**ORGAN DONOR ADVOCATES TAKE STEP
FORWARD IN RAISING AWARENESS**

With the signing of a new law introduced by Assemblyman Ortiz, advocates began a statewide campaign to raise awareness and recruit more registered organ donors. The new law added the question of organ donation on drivers' license applications and renewals. Join the cause and learn more: <http://www.organdonor.gov/index.html>.

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