



Member of Assembly

Félix W. Ortiz



Working for Our Community in Albany and Brooklyn

SUMMER 2016

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

We've had a very busy legislative session in Albany, making progress on issues that matter most to our families and communities. We passed new laws helping working families get ahead, strengthening the safety of our communities, and protecting our environment in the future.

This newsletter highlights the progress of our legislative initiatives and events that have taken place in our community.

Thank you for the emails, calls, office visits and conversations that have helped me develop and fight for legislation of importance to you.

This is a time of year when many exciting things are happening in our lives and in our community. I would like to encourage you to contact me, should you need my assistance with a problem or a legislative need.

I want to express my gratitude to each and every one of you for your support and loyalty over the years. I am honored to represent you in the New York State Assembly.

May God bless you and your family.

Sincerely,

Felix W. Ortiz
Member of Assembly

Questions, comments, suggestions, and invitations to community events are always welcome!

ASSEMBLYMAN ORTIZ' 2016 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

Veterans Legislation

I am pleased to announce that the Governor signed my bill, the Veterans Equality Act, into law in June. This legislation allows veterans who work in public service for at least five years to buy up to three years of pension credit for time served in the military, no matter where or how they served (A.9531).

I continued my sponsorship of legislation to establish a certified peer counselor program for veterans who suffer from mental illness, alcohol abuse or chemical dependence (A.6114). This bill passed the Assembly and awaits action in the Senate.

Military Families Legislation

Military families will have one less hurdle to cross when they move to New York. I have sponsored legislation to allow spouses to secure New York State professional licenses in a streamlined application process. Our current system unnecessarily blocks military spouses from obtaining licenses. The bill has passed both houses and awaits the Governor's signature.

Organ Donation

One of the most important of my bills that passed this year is a measure providing 16- and 17-year-olds the ability to sign up as organ donors when they receive their first driver's licenses. The bill passed in the final days of session as part of an effort to boost New York's standing among the rest of the country in regard to consent rates for registration to be donors. New York's donor registry ranks as the 51st most vital among 52 states and local registries in the nation.

In 2012, in another effort to increase the number of eligible organ donors in New York, I sponsored "Lauren's Law." Lauren's Law requires applicants who fill out motor vehicle forms to affirmatively check that they will join the state's Donate Life registry or state that they are skipping the question. The law is set to expire in October of this year, however, Organ Donation Registry got a 4-year boost when A.8594/S.6228 was passed during this session, and Lauren's Law was put into place permanently.

Distracted Driving Policy

My legislation, creating a protocol for police allowing them immediate access to driver cellphone at the scene of an auto collision in order to determine if the accident was related to distracted driving, passed in both the Assembly and Senate and is on its way to the Governor for approval.

This legislation will make New York the first state in the nation to enact a distracted driving policy giving police the ability to immediately investigate a possible cause of an accident. It further advances my efforts to save lives and ensure that drivers are responsible while on the road and are not distracted while at the wheel.

Covering Costs of Victims of Crime

Every year the Assembly passes a package of legislation that protects and supports crime victims, including victims of domestic violence and human trafficking, as part of its observance of the National Crime Victim's Rights Week. This session, the Assembly's crime victim's legislation initiatives included my bill (A.1097), to allow victims to be reimbursed for travel expenses, not just for testimony in court, but also to permit victims to attend all scheduled court appearances, from arraignment through trial and at sentencing. After negotiations, we were successful in seeing this bill also pass in Senate and we now await the Governor's signature to become law.

GMO Labeling Bill - Feds Take New York's Lead

Once again, New York's efforts in food safety and health related issues causes the federal government to take action. The federal law will require that most food packages carry a text label, a symbol or an electronic code readable by smartphone that indicates if the food contains genetically modified ingredients,

Continued on back

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END OF THE 2016 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY PASSES ELECTION REFORM

After the presidential primary this past April and the shocking revelation that the Board of Elections purged over 160,000 registered voters off their rolls, the Assembly moved to pass reform legislation to overhaul the state's election process in order to increase voter participation, ensure greater access to the polls, protect voting rights, and promote efficient, voter-friendly registration and elections.

Among the Assembly's Election Law reform measures sponsored by Assemblyman Mosley is legislation (A.6975-C, Kavanagh) to close the LLC loophole by requiring that campaign contributions from a Limited Liability Company not exceed \$5,000, which currently is the standard limit for contributions made by corporations. The bill also would require that an LLC's contributions disclose the identity of all direct and indirect LLC owners and attribute each contribution by the LLC to such owners' contribution limit.

To provide voters with more options to vote and reduce the likelihood of long lines at polling locations, the Assembly passed legislation that would:

- Permit voters to vote by mail at their convenience without being required to meet the narrow criteria that currently apply to voters requesting absentee ballots. The bill would provide first passage of an amendment to the state Constitution; such amendments must be approved by two consecutive legislatures and approved by voters in a statewide referendum. No-excuse absentee voting by mail is already permitted in at least 25 states, including Alaska, Arizona, Florida, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, Washington, and Wisconsin (A.3874-B, Brennan);
- Provide for early voting, permitting voters to vote in person eight days prior to election day, including during evening and weekend hours. The bill would require early voting poll sites in every county with the number of sites per county tailored to the voting population. New York would be joining 33 other states that have already enacted early voting, many with bipartisan support (A.8582-B, Kavanagh); and
- Modernize voter registration, improve the communication efforts of the various board of election offices, and allow qualified New Yorkers to register to vote or update their registration from any computer, smart phone, tablet, or other portable device with internet access (A.10370, Cusick).

Other initiatives approved by the Assembly to improve the administration of elections to ensure that they run more smoothly and efficiently would:

- Enact the Voter Friendly Ballot Act, ensuring that ballots are clear and easy for voters to read and complete accurately (A.3389-B, Kavanagh); and
- Enable boards of elections to replace paper voting lists currently used at poll sites with electronic poll books, ensuring that the most up-to-date information is available for voters and poll workers, including votes cast previously in the same election through early voting or absentee ballots (A.8608-A, Cusick).

The Assembly also approved a bill to continue the state's support for a compact to elect the president by national popular vote, which will take effect when states representing a majority of the nation's electoral votes adopt similar legislation (A.6044, Dinowitz).

The Assembly has a strong commitment to protecting the principles of democracy and the rights of voters. Toward that end, legislation was passed to require that actions of local boards of elections be pre-cleared by the state Attorney General's Civil Rights Division, to ensure that they do not have a discriminatory effect based on race or ethnicity. The new process would

replace U.S. Justice Department review of such actions in certain counties, which was suspended after an unfortunate ruling of the U.S. Supreme Court that significantly weakened the Voting Rights Act (A.10712, Walker).



Brooklyn Pride Parade – Assemblyman Mosley and his colleagues at the 2016 Brooklyn Pride Parade.



Assemblyman Mosley honors Gib Viconi, President of Prospect Heights North Development Council, at his Annual State of the District Address.

ASSEMBLY PASSES CONSTITUTIONAL AND ETHICS AMENDMENT TO TAKES STEP TO STRIP PENSIONS FROM CORRUPT POLITICIANS

"I have zero tolerance for corruption in government. That's why I passed a resolution to amend the New York State Constitution (A.10739-A) that provides for the stripping of pensions for public officials convicted of a felony related to their official duties. Politicians who betray the public trust and use their office to line their own pockets shouldn't be rewarded with pension benefits paid for by taxpayers.

Unfortunately, those who serve in government sometimes forget what public service is all about and help themselves instead of their constituents. Politicians aren't above the law, and this legislation makes clear that there are serious consequences when they commit a crime. If you defraud the people, we'll defund your pension," said Assemblyman Mosley.

***Note:** This resolution has passed in both chambers. For this amendment to become law, it must pass in both chambers again next legislative session. At that point, it will be placed on the ballot as a public referendum for voters to amend the New York State Constitution.

ASSEMBLYMAN WALTER T. MOSLEY AND THE ASSEMBLY PASSES LEGISLATION TO ENSURE SAFE DRINKING WATER IN SCHOOLS

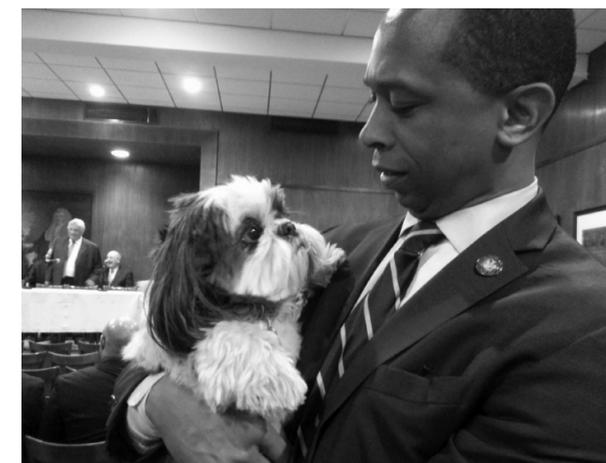
As the end of the legislative session in Albany approached this year, the Assembly passed legislation requiring the state health and education departments to create statewide guidelines for school districts and Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) to test drinking water for lead. Under the measure, costs associated with testing and remediation will be eligible for reimbursement by the state (A.10740).

"When parents send their children to school, they do so expecting they will learn in a safe environment. However, recent test results have shown some schools in New York State have unsafe levels of lead in their drinking water," said Assemblyman Mosley. "This legislation will create standards that ensure every school across the state—whether in a wealthy area or a poor community—has the resources it needs to test its drinking water, so we can be sure our kids aren't being exposed to harmful levels of lead."

The legislation passed by the Assembly would direct the state Department of Health and Department of Education to enact regulations for schools to periodically test for lead and help school districts pay for the testing. Currently, some school districts have voluntarily tested for lead, however it is not required. This legislation further specifies that if lead is found in the water, testing must occur at a frequency to be determined by the regulations to ensure the water is safe. Additionally, safe drinking water must be provided and parents need to be notified of the test results in a timely manner.

Studies show that high levels of lead can negatively impact a young child's ability to learn and even cause brain damage.

"The health of our students is too important to put at risk," Assemblyman Mosley said. "When a child is drinking from a school water fountain, parents should feel 100 percent confident that the water is clean and safe."



Animal Advocacy Day – Assemblyman Mosley attends the Annual Animal Advocacy Day in Albany.

ASSEMBLY PUSHES RESOLUTION MAKING NEW YORK STATE A "TPP-FREE ZONE"

Assembly Resolution K597 would seek to declare New York State a "TPP-Free Zone." This declaration would urge Congress not to grant President Obama "fast-track" authority over, or permission to sign, the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade agreement.

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is a free trade agreement currently being negotiated between the United States, Canada, Australia, Chile, Mexico, Malaysia, Peru, Singapore, Vietnam, Brunei, New Zealand, and Japan.

Together, these nations contribute 40% of the world's Gross Domestic Product, and one third of the world's trade and the Office of the United States Trade Representative, through the terms of TPP, is seeking to eliminate both tariff and non-tariff "barriers to goods and services trade and investment" among the twelve participating nations.

It has been reported that the agreement would include provisions concerning financial regulations, environmental protection, prescription drug pricing, and food sanitation standards, the adoption of which could negatively affect the public's health, safety and welfare, and require an overhaul of America's domestic legal system.

The exact terms of this proposed agreement have not been disclosed to the public, with most known details having been ascertained through unapproved 'leaks' from stakeholders.

Article II, Section 2 of the United States Constitution empowers the President of the United States "by and with the advice and consent on the Senate, to make treaties, provided two thirds of Senators present concur." While some members of Congress have been able to view certain sections of the

negotiation text from the TPP, they have been prohibited from sharing what they saw with the public or with their staffers.

President Obama has pressed Congress to provide "trade promotion authority," or "fast track" authority, which would allow Congress only an up-or-down vote on the agreement once it has been negotiated by the executive branch with the other nations and if Congress were to grant President Obama "fast track" authority, then discussions surrounding the TPP agreement could be made with inadequate transparency and public review. Congress would be unable to enact substantive changes to the agreement if it only exercises its oversight powers after the negotiations have been completed.

There are concerns that the TPP's investor-state dispute settlement clauses, which were 'leaked' in 2012, could grant international corporations the right to sue the federal government for damages if environmental, worker protection, food safety, or other local, state, or federal regulatory safeguards do not guarantee their ability to profit from their investments.

Over 500 employees of the same corporations maintain positions on U.S. Trade Representative advisory panels, which allow them to act as advisors to the drafting of the TPP.

As the negotiations currently stand, there are concerns that the passage of the TPP would ban "Buy American" and "Buy Local" efforts by U.S. industries, which could put goods and services created and based in New York State at a competitive disadvantage.

Neither the National League of Cities nor the U.S. Conference of Mayors has been included in TPP negotiations, mak

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NYPD Auxiliary Police Officers from Sunset Park's 72nd Precinct visiting Albany.



The NYPD was out in force to help crowd control at the Bay Ridge Norwegian Parade. Thank you for your service!



Congratulations to the Chinatown Business Improvement District and the Partnership for keeping business strong.



Discussing the role of the Assembly in state government and my leadership role with students at PS 169 and Summit Academy 10th grade students. Thank you for your questions and interest in government.



I obtained funding for a new medical van for Bay Ridge's Guild for Exceptional Children.



I obtained state funds to purchase a new van for the Resource Counseling Center in Bay Ridge. The van was dedicated in memory of our friend Larry Morrish, a community activist who passed away earlier this year.



New York City's firehouses opened their doors to public visits in May. I visited Ladder 279. Thanks to New York's "Bravest" fire fighters!



Engine 201, the "Emerald Isle" is in the heart of Sunset Park.



Engine 241/Ladder 209 helps protect Bay Ridge.



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2016 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY CONTINUED...

or GMOs. New York has had legislation on this issue for some time; I am a co-sponsor of Assembly bill 00617-B, requiring the labeling of foods containing GMOs. As former chair of the Assembly's Task Force on Food Farm and Nutrition Policy, I worked with First Lady Michelle Obama to include New York's calorie labeling legislation in the National Health Care Act.

CPR Training for Law Enforcement

Once again, the Assembly passed my bill (A.4364A) to require police to be retrained in CPR every two years. For years I have worked tirelessly with the family of Briana Ojeda, for whom the bill is named "Briana's Law," to see this measure become law. The State Senate can no longer turn away from this critical bill; it is time

for the State Senate to pass Briana's Law. I will not give up until we succeed in obtaining agreement at all levels of state government that this is the right thing to do for the safety of all New Yorkers, citizens and police officers alike.

Financial Help For School Based Health Centers

School based health centers provide vital services to residents across the state and especially in underserved areas. I continue to sponsor legislation that would create a tax check-off box on State tax returns allowing individuals to donate to these centers (A4913A). This bill passed the Assembly again and I will continue to work with our Senate partners to reach consensus on how to keep these centers properly and fully funded.