



# New York State Assembly Weekly Report From Assistant Speaker Felix W. Ortiz



05/25/2015



The Assembly passed legislation to extend rent control laws for four more years. Ortiz strongly supported A7526 to strengthen tenant protections and ensure that New Yorkers have access to safe and affordable housing.

Assistant Speaker Ortiz's veterans' peer support program bill, A6114, was reported from committee last week. This bill will establish a certified peer counseling program for veterans who suffer from mental illness, alcohol abuse and /or chemical dependence. Peer support programs are critical factors in mitigating Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and helping enable veterans to build healthier and positive relationships as they transition back to civilian life.



In honor of this year's Legislative Disabilities Awareness Day, the Assembly passed a series of bills to help improve the quality of life for New Yorkers with disabilities and to ensure they have opportunities to succeed. These bills include: equal protection for all New York State employees (A5388); improving the accessibility of public facilities (A136A0); require the presence of an interpreter, if requested (A1669A); and ensure consideration of determining work limitations due to a disability or health concern (A3450).



Assistant Speaker Ortiz attended the Lebanese Gala sponsored by the American Lebanese Chambers of Commerce. He discussed job creation and small business growth at the event. These are two critical issues for growing constituencies. Ortiz also presented a proclamation applauding efforts to help build and support ecosystems in Lebanon.



Assistant Speaker Ortiz and supporters held a press conference at the Capitol urging Congress to reject fast track legislation for the international trade agreement known as the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). If passed, TPP could cost Americans thousands of jobs to overseas corporations, eliminate consumer protections and weaken public health and environmental regulations (K503).



Assistant Speaker Ortiz met with members of AARP to discuss the importance of the NY Care Act (A1323). Ortiz supports the Care Act to equip caregivers with appropriate resources to safely care for elderly loved ones.

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