



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



January 14th, 2016



Ortiz spoke at a rally in Albany to build support to reduce global warming and decrease our reliance on renewable energy sources instead of fossil fuels. Ortiz's bill (A. 8011A), to divest the public pension funds from fossil fuel companies, is one of the key legislative pieces for New York's effort to combat climate change.



Ortiz welcomed friends Coco Tong and Yiren Wang, private industry leaders, from Shenzhen, China to Albany.

The Governor announced plans to help the homeless. Billions of dollars will be committed over the next several years toward support services including shelter beds and affordable housing units. This strategic plan is called the Continuum of Care. The state is making a new commitment toward its social obligation to help the needy.

Assistant Speaker Ortiz was one of the first legislators to sign the Clean Conscience Ethics Pledge. The signatories commit to specific ethics reforms. The pledge was created by Common Cause-NY, Citizen's Union, and New York Public Interest Research Group. So far, 8 out of 211 legislators have signed the pledge.

In his 2016 State of the State and Budget Address, Governor Cuomo announced an ambitious transportation proposal, "Transformative Projects for an Interconnected Mass Transit System," which will include:

- Construction of a new airport will replace LaGuardia and a new terminal at JFK;
- Construction of a new rail tunnel system to help speed commuters from the west;
- Construction of a new Penn-Moynihan complex at Penn Station;
- Addition of 1,400 new subway cars and 3,100 new buses;
- Upgrades to train tracks, street signs, yards, depots, stations, and bridges.

This is good news for Brooklyn residents and we will keep you informed as this project unfolds.



To address widespread consumer skepticism about food product labeling, the state will create a new standard so that the term "all-natural" will have a bona fide meaning. The Attorney General will police the program. Ortiz will work with state leaders on this new initiative and encourage similar standards on herbal and dietary supplements modeled after his legislation (A. 3548 and A. 8501).



Ortiz welcomes two new interns to Albany, graduate student Kasa Du and undergraduate student Jorge Villatoro.

If you have a comment or suggestion regarding the upcoming year and 2016 session, please send an email, "like" his Facebook page (FelixWOrtiz) and follow him on twitter (@felixwortiz).

Dr. King devoted his life to advancing equality, social justice, and economic opportunity for all. He challenged us to build a more perfect union and taught us that everyone has a role to play. We should remember how much work still remains to fulfill Dr. King's dream. Let's make a commitment to make this country better by honoring Dr. King's legacy through community service. As we work together, we will create economic opportunities by improving education, strengthening health care services, and improving financial literacy. These are central to making our economy work for every American.

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