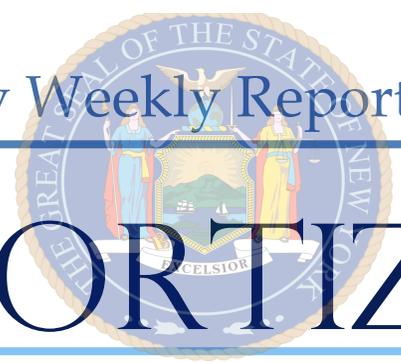




# New York State Assembly Weekly Report

From Assistant Speaker

# FELIX W. ORTIZ



FEBRUARY 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2016

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Throughout the legislative session this week, culminations of thirteen joint budget hearings were held. Both the New York State Senate and Assembly will now begin to formulate their own house budgets. In addition, moving forward, the governor will release his thirty-day amendments to his budget. The process of determining how the state's money is spent will, in part, be negotiated in public conference committees.

Assistant Speaker Ortiz has worked tirelessly on many initiatives to promote a healthy lifestyle for New Yorkers. He has held public hearings throughout the state on childhood obesity, eating disorders, and nutrition education. Ortiz introduced our country's first legislation addressing the need for a comprehensive eating disorder center, which led to the opening of three eating disorder centers in New York State. Ortiz is committed to continuing his work in the upcoming session and fighting for services for thousands of individuals suffering from an eating disorder.

Assistant Speaker Felix W. Ortiz announced his disappointment that the U.S. Supreme Court issued a stay against President Obama's Clean Power Plan (CPP) earlier last week, creating a delay in the federal effort to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 2030. The U.S. Court of Appeals is now reviewing the plan for the District of Columbia Circuit where a hearing is scheduled in June.

Ortiz noted that "the Supreme Court's action is not a decision on the merits of the rule, but rather a delay until the Court makes a final decision."

In the meantime, the federal Environmental Protection Agency encourages states to continue developing plans. Ortiz is the sponsor, along with Senator Liz Krueger, of the Fossil Fuel Divestment Act (A.8011-A/S.5873), which would require the State Comptroller to divest the New York State Common Retirement Fund from all holdings in the 200 largest publicly traded fossil fuel companies, as defined by carbon content in the companies' proven oil, gas, and coal reserves (the CU 200).

Ortiz and Krueger are holding a joint forum on the divestment act in Albany on February 29<sup>th</sup> to bring together scientists and policy experts on climate change to discuss the issue and raise awareness of the legislation.

## GET YOUR FIRE ALARM AT OUR OFFICE

Even though 97 percent of homes have smoke alarms, more than 33 percent of them do not work because they have a missing or dead battery. In an effort to keep New Yorkers safe, Assistant Speaker Ortiz and the FDNY will host a fire alarm giveaway on February 26<sup>th</sup> from 11:00am - 2:00pm at 5004 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Brooklyn, NY.



Assistant Speaker Ortiz fighting for CUNY funding with a group from District Council 37 American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). During their visit to Ortiz's Albany Office, DC 37 AFSCME also discussed support for a \$15 minimum wage.



Ortiz met with the DOH Commissioner Mary Basset to discuss ways to improve school-based health. Also discussed was Ortiz's health bill (A.05131), which requires at least one full-time certified or licensed school guidance counselor and social worker (A.06763) in schools.



Cancer patients and members from the American Cancer Society visited Assistant Speaker Felix Ortiz in his Albany Office to advocate for an increase in funds to the organization and the extension of programs. Patients shared with Ortiz their stories and experiences.