



ASSEMBLYMAN

2014 Legislative Newsletter

Matthew Titone

*Chair, Task Force on State-Federal Relations
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HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT: Titone tackles human trafficking

Assemblyman Matthew Titone recognizes that hotels and gaming facilities, including casinos, are frequently used during human trafficking encounters and is seeking to require that some of these establishments conduct an anti-trafficking training program.

Assemblyman Titone said, "Human trafficking is a hidden crime, and the first step to combating it is to identify victims so

they can be rescued and help bring their perpetrators to justice. Knowing indicators of human trafficking and some follow up questions can help prevent human traffickers from further harming victims. Requiring hotel and casino staff to undergo anti-trafficking training, which already exists, will not only increase awareness on the issue, but will also save lives."

Assemblyman Titone seeks to establish an Arts Education Task Force

Assemblyman Titone has introduced new legislation establishing a task force to analyze the current arts education curriculum in public schools, and make recommendations to the governor and legislature for improving the curriculum.

"Arts in Education programs have long been valued learning experiences in New York State schools. The State's arts and cultural institutions, including museums, libraries, historical sites, and performing arts companies are crucial in supporting and enriching New York's school curriculum. Furthermore, art education creates an environment where excitement, possibility, discovery, and imagination can thrive," Assemblyman Titone said.

Studies by the Guggenheim Museum, National Art Education Association, and The Center for Arts Education have proven that students who are engaged in the arts develop a more complete understanding of personal identity, appreciation for culture, and connection with their community.

The task force will determine whether or not individual schools are meeting the required arts in education standards. "In many cases, schools across the state are failing to meet even the basic requirements for maintaining art education during school hours. Instead, many schools have to resort to creating optional after school art programs. Unfortunately, these programs are sometimes portrayed as a glorified recesses," Assemblyman Titone added. The task force will also be in charge of studying the benefits of these after school programs as compared to school curriculum art programs,



Assemblyman Titone along with the principal of P.S. 373R, Ilene Goldstein Harne, and the Executive Director of Art Lab, Malissa Priebe, presented a donation of art supplies for the schools art program. Assemblyman Titone has been a long and vocal advocate of promoting the arts in schools, as there have been demonstrated links showing how arts education promotes achievement in other core academic subjects such as math, science, and reading.

evaluating if the same effective behavioral tools are gained by participants in both programs, and determining if students are being denied access to age appropriate arts education.

NEW YORK STATE'S GRAND SLAM BUDGET!!!

As the 2014 legislative session is coming to a close, there are still many issues I hope to address. These issues include insurance fairness and policy transparency, a necessity following Superstorm Sandy, fairness in prescription drug coverage, easing burdens on small business, and fighting to pass the Women's Equality Act.

Here are some budget highlights:

- *Passed a fiscally responsible budget with a focus on education and jobs - it was on time for the fourth year in a row!*
- *Fought for education funding—and we won! Secured a \$1.1 billion, or 5.3%, increase in education aid, including \$340 million for universal pre-kindergarten for each of the next two years, with \$300 million for New York City.*
- *Increase in TAP funding for college students for the first time in 14 years. Eligible students can now receive \$5,165 per full-time student.*
- *Expanded NY Youth Works Program, which encourages businesses to hire unemployed, disadvantaged youth, ages 16 to 24, by connecting them to community colleges.*
- *Increased the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) by \$13 million to support a 2% salary increase for direct care workers, including those caring for the disabled at non-profits licensed by the state.*
- *Expanding eligibility for the Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) program with a \$4.1 million increase making health care more affordable for New York State's elderly population.*

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Staten Island and New York. I remain committed to the hardworking families of Staten Island and look forward to continuing to fight hard for us all!

Sincerely,



*Matthew Titone,
Member, NYS Assembly, 61st District*



Assemblyman Titone demands charity telemarketers disclose how donations are spent

Assemblyman Matthew Titone has introduced legislation requiring telemarketers calling on behalf of charitable organizations to disclose how much of the contribution will actually be donated to the charity and how much will be retained by the telemarketing firm as profit. “Pennies for Charity” annual fundraising report disclosed that the telemarketers kept an average of 62 cents of every dollar they raised, citing fees and expenses. Only the remaining 38 cents per dollar is given to the charitable

organizations for which the donation was originally solicited. The legislation will make the public more aware of how their donation will be spent.

Assemblyman Matthew Titone said, “Generous New Yorkers have a right to know where their donations are going and how that money will be spent. This legislation will require telemarketers to demystify their profit margins and allow contributors to make an informed choice on whether they choose to donate in the future.”

Assemblyman Titone proposes legislation for smartphone kill switch options following theft of devices

Assemblyman Matthew Titone has introduced legislation that seeks to require all smartphones and other advanced mobile communications devices offered for sale in New York to come equipped with a technological solution in order to deter theft and protect consumers. The legislation also intends to prohibit any term or condition in a service contract between the customer and service provider that requires or encourages the customer to dis-

able the technological solution that would render the smartphone or communication device useless if stolen.

Assemblyman Titone said, “Smartphone theft continues to be a serious problem that won’t be going away in the foreseeable future. This legislation will allow mobile devices to be completely deactivated and useless once they are reported stolen and hopefully make them less attractive targets for thieves.”



Assemblyman Titone honors our nation's Vietnam Veterans

Assemblyman Matthew Titone, along with Senator Andrew Lanza, hosted their 6th Annual celebration of Vietnam Veterans' Day this past April at Tottenville High School. In 2008, Assemblyman Titone sponsored legislation in the Assembly designating March 29th as Vietnam Veterans' Day in the State of New York. He recognizes the sacrifices of those who served in the Vietnam War and is thankful for their service.

Arrive Alive this prom season and stay safe by taking the pledge

Assemblymember Matthew Titone is encouraging prom-goers and their parents or guardians to participate in the Arrive Alive Prom Promise to encourage safe driving and teen dating practices and ensure that every teen stays safe during the upcoming prom season.

“A fun and exciting time can quickly turn tragic when drugs or alcohol become involved. The heightened pressure to drink before and after the prom can be hard to resist,” Assemblyman Titone said. “That’s why I’m strongly advocating every family of a prom-going child to review, discuss, and sign the Arrive Alive Prom Promise.”

The pledge asks parents/guardians to provide a ride at anytime during the night—no questions asked—while teens promise to not drink and drive, or accept a ride from someone who has been drinking or is being verbally or physically abusive.



“To ensure our children’s safety, it’s crucial that we maintain an open dialogue with them,” Titone said. “It’s important that teens feel comfortable discussing their plans for prom night, and that they know there are alternative options to drinking alcohol or getting into a car with an intoxicated driver or abusive date. Signing the pledge can mean the difference between life and death.”

To obtain a prom pledge, please contact Assemblyman Titone’s district office at 718-442-9932.

Assemblyman Titone kicks off book drive with Eden II School just in time for the Summer Reading Challenge

Each year, Assemblyman Titone and the New York State libraries partner to encourage children to continue reading throughout the summer. Both of the summer reading programs have been growing, and are continuing to reach out to more children and their families.

Along with the Summer Reading Challenge, Assemblyman Titone is partnering with Eden II in collecting gently used books to donate to families and community groups who can use them. If you would like to make a donation to the book drive or would like to receive more information on the Summer Reading Challenge, please contact Assemblyman Titone's district office at 718-442-9932.



Assemblyman
**Matthew
Titone**

Reports to the People

Assemblyman Titone fights for pedestrian safety

Assemblyman Titone created Pedestrian Safety Week to improve safety and prevent accidents across the state. "Every day, millions of people walk, bike and commute around New York City. Staying safe requires knowing the rules of the road, being mindful of your surroundings and exercising good judgment. It is imperative that there be greater public awareness of this serious safety issue, and more must be done to increase activity at the state, local, and national levels to implement new safety countermeasures to prevent pedestrian injuries and fatalities," Assemblyman Titone said.

Pedestrian safety is a serious issue with serious consequences – but there are plenty of steps you can take to ensure you remain safe from traffic-related dangers.

Did You Know?

- About 4,000 New Yorkers are injured and 250 are killed each year in traffic crashes.
- A traffic-related accident results in serious physical injury every two hours.
- Being hit by a vehicle is the most common cause of injury-related fatalities among children under 14 years old and the second most common cause for seniors.
- Older pedestrians account for only 13% of the city's population but suffer 35% of pedestrian fatalities.