



Assemblymember  
**Ellen Jaffee**  
Assembly District 97

Dear Friends,



Sunday, June 12, 2016 was a day to celebrate [PRIDE](#) with friends and families here in Rockland, and yet, I woke to the news of the mass shooting in Orlando, Florida. My heart is with all those families who lost a loved one and those who were injured. Now is not the time to let hate divide us. Love will triumph and pull us together, but we must take action. Rockland Pride means Justice and Equality for all, without exceptions.

Equality and justice means you don't get bullied for being who you are. Equality and justice means you aren't discriminated against for who you love. Equality and justice for all includes a right to feel safe if you are walking down the street or using a restroom or dancing at a club. Equality and justice for all is just that. NO exceptions. As a longtime advocate for [sensible gun safety](#), protecting the public's health continues to be a top priority. Renewing the assault weapons ban would be a step in the right direction.

~Ellen~

**Assembly Passes Women's Health Legislation**

Women will never be truly equal until they have complete control over their health care decisions. [The Boss Bill](#) (A.1142-A) I sponsored prohibits discriminating against employees because of their reproductive health care decisions. A second bill [\(A.6221\)](#) I co-sponsored codifies the federal protections of [Roe v. Wade](#) into New York State law, ensuring a woman's right to choose.

My 2012 [Breast Density Inform Law](#) requires that women who have a mammogram are notified in writing if they have dense breast tissue. The notification encourages them to discuss supplemental screening with their doctor. To ensure the notification has its intended effect, my new bill [\(A-5510-B\)](#) would educate and inform the public about the consequences, impact and screening that may be appropriate if a woman has dense breast tissue.



**Concerned Clergy for Choice**



I was proud to welcome members of the [Concerned Clergy for Choice](#) to the Assembly Chamber on their 20th anniversary. The multi-faith, pro-choice network of clergy is dedicated to ensuring women have access to reproductive health services and education. To watch the video click [here](#):

**Say No to Suez Surcharge, Yes to Water Conservation**

Suez, formerly United Water, wants us to pick up the \$54.5 million tab for its failed Hudson River desalination plant that was never built. Rockland ratepayers would see up to 18.7% increase in monthly water bills and pay more than \$100 million with interest over the next 20 years. [Public hearings](#) June 15th at the Stony Point Community Center (Rho Building) and June 16 RCC Technology Center, (Ellipse Room 8180.) Info sessions 2pm and 6pm; public hearings 3pm and 7pm.

**Banning Coupons for Tobacco Products**

The [NYS Department of Health](#) reports that each year, nearly 20,000 youth under age 18 become new daily smokers and that unless smoking rates decline, 389,000 NYS youth alive today will die prematurely from smoking. Taking on big tobacco and addressing tobacco marketing, by restricting the redemption of cost-saving coupons will not only protect our youth, but will also save our local governments the staggering costs of tobacco-related health care. [\(A.5164B\)](#) a bill I co-sponsored, would ban coupons for e-cigarettes and tobacco products.



**Preserve Airmont Day**



It was great fun to join Airmont Mayor, Phil Gigante, residents, families and friends for a beautiful spring day filled with good food, great music, and games. Thanks to everyone who contributed to bringing the community together and making such a memorable day possible. View the wonderful [slideshow](#) Trustee Anthony Valvo created.

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