

I want to hear from you!

What do you think we need to do to get New York back on track?

Email me with your thoughts, questions and ideas.

Assemblyman
Kieran Michael
LALOR

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A Legislative Report from

ASSEMBLYMAN

Kieran Michael

Lalor



Assemblyman
Lalor and
family at the
Dutchess County
St. Patrick's
Day Parade.



Dear Friend:

This newsletter is designed to update you on the work I am doing to represent you as your New York State Assemblyman. It also serves as an opportunity for you to provide your input on the policies you would like to see me advance.

I hope this mailer will give you a better understanding of the work I am doing to rejuvenate the stagnant economy, clean up Albany and defend your rights. I also hope you will call or email me to let me know your thoughts on how we can make New York a better place for families to grow, small businesses to prosper and seniors to comfortably retire.

Sincerely,

Kieran Michael Lalor

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Vocally Opposed County Energy Tax, Proposed Viable Alternative

When the county energy tax was being debated, I took the unusual step of attending the county legislative session and spoke out against the new energy tax. I offered a viable plan to reduce spending so the energy tax would not be necessary. I am continuing to push for the immediate repeal of the energy tax and a refund for those who have had to pay it.

Preserved Jobs and Healthcare Options

I successfully fought to preserve St. Francis Hospital as a full-service hospital rather than have it absorbed into a larger local hospital, saving as many as 1,000 jobs at the hospital and additional jobs with vendors and nearby small businesses. Saving St. Francis Hospital also preserved competition in the local healthcare market, preventing a monopoly that would have reduced healthcare options.

Full Repeal of the Common Core Debacle

The legislature and Governor Cuomo need to drop the Common Core curriculum and get to work on a new direction for education reform. We need to raise the standards in our schools, but Common Core, even a patched-over Common Core, isn't the right solution. Parents across the district have told me that Common Core is broken.

No Free Education for Felons

Governor Cuomo is pitching a plan to offer free college classes in prison. He seems to be saying that, since we already spend \$60,000 yearly per prisoner, an extra \$5,000 to pay for college for inmates is no big deal. That's the wrong attitude. We should be asking why we spend so much and how we can cut it. If we can cut it by 10%, we can look at offering student loans to prisoners. Because they're not good credit risks, we'll garnish a percentage of their wages to pay taxpayers back. This shouldn't be a handout. Taxpayers can't afford to provide more handouts. Throwing more and more money at a problem is never the answer. Under my counter-proposal, we can only offer this program if we can save tax dollars up front. Possible long-term savings aren't enough. Let's save the taxpayers' money right now.

Automatic Renewal for Enhanced STAR Property Tax Exemption Bill

My office has heard from several seniors who lost their Enhanced STAR property tax exemption because they missed the renewal deadline due to illness or other difficulties. They were then hit with dramatic property tax hikes.

Requiring seniors to regularly submit new applications for their Enhanced STAR exemptions is unnecessarily burdensome. Under the current system, if a senior misses the yearly application deadline for any reason, including illness or hospitalization, they will lose the exemption and face a massive property tax increase. I want to fix that. I have introduced legislation that would amend the real property tax law to make the yearly renewals of the enhanced STAR exemption automatic. Let's keep it simple and keep taxes down.



Opposed Tuition Grants for Illegal Immigrants

Tens of millions of immigrants have struggled to legally come to the United States. Tens of millions more are waiting on line overseas, trying to immigrate legally. They've done the right thing and that isn't easy. When we pass legislation offering state tuition grants to illegal immigrants, we're sending the wrong message to all of those legal immigrants. We're rewarding the people who cheated the system. We're telling the people who played by the rules that they were foolish, that they should have just cheated to get ahead.

Making Government More Transparent

I have introduced legislation that would require New York State to publish any contract the state enters into within a week of signing it. New Yorkers should have the opportunity to review and assess the state's contracts, especially

multi-million dollar agreements to subsidize individual corporations. The governor shouldn't require the press or legislators to go through a Freedom of Information Law request to access something basic like a government contract. Taxpayers have a right to see these contracts. Government contracts never belong behind closed doors. If it's really a good deal for the taxpayers, the taxpayers should at least be able to take a look at the details.