



ASSEMBLYWOMAN

PATRICIA A. FAHY

Legislative & Community Report to the 109th Assembly District



Dear Friend --

I'm proud to represent you in the New York State Assembly and will continue to work hard for each of the Albany, Bethlehem, Guilderland, and New Scotland communities. This edition of the Legislative and Community Report to the

109th Assembly District includes a summary of the end of the legislative session and community information you might find helpful to you and your family.

I am committed to working on behalf of our region with a focus on building an economy that generates good jobs and an education system that prepares our children for a bright future, and providing a good quality of life for all residents.

Your thoughts on these important issues are valuable to me and I welcome your viewpoints. Please feel free to join me at a future community event, contact my office by phone, email, or social media, and sign up for our regular email updates by sending a note to fahyp@assembly.state.ny.us.

PATRICIA A. FAHY
Member of Assembly
109th District

ASSEMBLYWOMAN FAHY WORKING FOR YOU

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

During this legislative session, I've advocated on dozens of issues that affect residents of the 109th Assembly District – from education, public safety, transportation, health, and more. Below are some highlights from the end of this year's session.

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS FOR THE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

Legislation I sponsored has passed the Assembly and Senate and is awaiting the Governor's signature to allow the Town of Bethlehem to provide for significant property tax exemptions for landowners who agree to conserve open space, either for an extended period of years or in perpetuity. This legislation helps prevent sprawl, promote conservation and preserve open space by providing property tax relief to assist residents who own large tracts of land and may otherwise feel the financial pressure to overdevelop their land.

IMPROVING TRANSPORTATION SAFETY

The Governor signed legislation I sponsored authorizing the City of Albany to adopt the use of red light cameras in Albany should the Mayor and the Common Council approve such a measure. The bill grew out of a recommendation from the Albany Traffic Safety Stakeholders Committee established by the



Assemblymember Fahy joins County Executive Dan McCoy and Town of Bethlehem Superintendent John Clarkson with Dr. Ronald Stram and colleagues at the opening of the Stram Center for Integrative Medicine.

Police Chief and allows Albany to install and operate these devices for up to five years and at no more than twenty intersections.

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2014 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Assemblywoman Fahy, Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan, and Assemblyman John McDonald help open the Fort Orange General Store, a new small business in Albany.



Assemblywoman Fahy and Susan Arbetter on the set for WCNY-TV "Insight!"



Assemblywoman Fahy with Ms. Hausler's kindergarten students from the Albany School of Humanities to promote summer reading.



Assemblywoman Fahy questions SUNY Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher at the joint legislative budget hearing on higher education.

TEACHER EVALUATIONS

By a near-unanimous vote, both the Senate and Assembly voted to remove the test results related to the new Common Core standards from teacher evaluations for two years to allow sufficient time for educators to implement the new standards and to modify the curriculum. Teacher evaluations have a place in our educational system and this legislation (A.10168) does not change that. Real consequences remain if a teacher is still rated as "ineffective" or "developing" based on local measures (with Common Core state test results out of the mix). High standards in the classrooms should be expected and are not the issue here; it's ensuring the standards are developmentally appropriate and that the training, curriculum and related materials are available and accessible to teachers and students alike.

COMBATING PUBLIC LEWDNESS

The Governor has also signed legislation I sponsored to increase penalties and charges for those who commit acts of public lewdness in front of minors or for those who are repeat offenders. Indecent exposure or public lewdness – especially on repeated occasions or in the presence of

children – is an unacceptable act that requires a tougher criminal response. The legislation came as a result of incidents last year by a repeat offender who had been arrested for committing multiple acts of public lewdness, including the final incident in the presence of two Albany middle school children. The individual was repeatedly arrested for re-offending and released only to recommit lewd acts upon release. It is my hope that this new law will serve as a deterrent and I am confident that it will ultimately help protect New Yorkers and lead to safer communities across the state.

ALBANY'S RESIDENTIAL PARKING SYSTEM

The Governor also signed into law legislation I sponsored to allow the two-year-old residential parking system for the City of Albany to be renewed for an additional two years, thereby alleviating neighborhood parking problems for Albany residents and businesses within a one-mile radius of the Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza. This important extension will also allow for further refinement of this relatively new system.

MEDICAL MARIJUANA

The Legislature approved and the Governor signed a bill that allows for seriously ill patients to use medical marijuana to treat debilitating and life-threatening illnesses. The legislation allows licensed physicians to determine if a patient suffering from a debilitating or life-threatening illness is likely to benefit from the use of medical marijuana. The bill imposes penalties on anyone attempting to defraud the program, and would make it a felony for a practitioner to prescribe marijuana when there is no medical need.

Furthermore, the bill caps the number of licensed medicinal marijuana growers at five and the number of locations where the drug could be dispensed at 20 statewide. Additionally, the bill prevents the marketing of medical marijuana to teenagers and limits the forms of the drug that may be prescribed to oil-based extracts, pills, edibles and vaporized forms. Prescriptions to smoke medical marijuana will not be allowed.

Under the bill, the medical marijuana program will begin 18 months after enactment and expire after seven years. It will be overseen by the state Department of Health and

the Governor has the authority to suspend the program if there is a risk to public health or safety. Finally, the bill imposes a seven percent excise tax on medical marijuana sales, helping to fund our schools and other vital programs.

COMBATING HEROIN AND OPIOID ABUSE

The Legislature passed a series of bills to address the growing heroin and opioid abuse epidemic. This package of legislation includes improved measures to support addiction treatment, new penalties to help crack down on illegal drug distribution, informational cards in Naloxone anti-overdose kits to help save lives, and expanded public education to prevent opioid and heroin use.

The Assembly passed the following bills that I had sponsored. I will continue to fight for passage of the bills by both houses next session.

MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA

The Assembly has passed legislation that I've sponsored that would provide for dissemination of information to veterans regarding where they can seek treatment and counseling for military sexual trauma. The bill would require that information be made available at the Office of Mental Health and the Division of Veterans Affairs websites. This bill will be an important step forward in providing the services and treatment for those who have suffered from military sexual trauma.

PETROLEUM STORAGE SURETY

By an overwhelming vote, the Assembly passed the Petroleum Storage Surety bill that I introduced this spring to ensure that crude oil storage facilities meet certain financial requirements to prevent taxpayers from being responsible should any accident occur. This legislation is the first to address growing concerns over the safety of crude oil storage in New York State. This bill ensures that crude oil operators and storage facilities are responsible for their actions and covered for any liability or cleanup costs – via insurance or surety bonds – and not the taxpayers.

The transport of crude oil by rail has increased exponentially nationwide over the past five years, from over 9,000 carloads of crude oil in 2008 to over 400,000 in 2013, and the need for storage facilities has expanded accordingly.



Assemblywoman Fahy joins State Comptroller DiNapoli, Assemblyman McDonald, Mayor Sheehan, Senator Breslin, and Treasurer Shahinfar for a press conference on Albany's fiscal profile.



Assemblywoman Fahy with local children outside of Guilderland Public Library after commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Star Spangled Banner.





COMMUNITY EVENTS

Assemblywoman Fahy hosts a variety of outreach events at local businesses and organizations in the 109th Assembly District. These events are a wonderful way to get to know the Assemblywoman and her staff as well as get updates from the New York State Legislature. Join our email list by sending us a note at fahyp@assembly.state.ny.us and follow us on Facebook and Twitter to find out when the next event will be coming to a neighborhood near you.



Assemblywoman Fahy speaks to Bard College's International Delegation inside the Assembly chamber.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

New York State has set up a new job portal entitled Jobs Express, where thousands of jobs are listed.

Visit jobs.ny.gov for more information.

For public service employment, please visit:

<https://statejobsny.com/index.cfm>

<http://www.albanycounty.com/employment.asp>

<http://www.albanyny.gov/Government/Departments/HumanResources/Employment.aspx>



PUBLIC ACCESS TELEVISION

Did you know Albany has a public access channel? ChannelAlbany broadcasts from Channel 18 (or 116.3), presenting content made from residents and organizations within the City of Albany. The studio is in the Albany Public Library's main branch and is open to the public. For more information, email channelalbany@gmail.com or visit channelalbany.tv.



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**Patricia
Fahy**

Reports to the People

Assemblywoman Patricia A. Fahy

Albany Office Staff

Cathy Fahey – Staff Director • Dawn Reddy-Dugan – Legislative Aide •
Ginnie Farrell – Legislative Aide & Scheduler • Joe Bonilla – Communications Coordinator
Elissa Kane – Community Liaison

Room 452, Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12248 • 518-455-4178 • Email: fahyp@assembly.state.ny.us



Facebook: www.facebook.com/AssemblymemberPatriciaFahy

Twitter: www.twitter.com/PatriciaFahy109

Web: www.assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Patricia-Fahy

