



Assemblyman Sean Ryan

Legislative Update

A
Successful
Year
for
Buffalo,
Lackawanna
and
Hamburg

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

It is an honor to represent you in the New York State Assembly, and I am looking forward to being back in Western New York full-time now that the Legislative Session in Albany has ended. During the last few months, I have been hard at work, focusing on solving problems, and working on great initiatives which are helping to create jobs and grow our economy. Now that the legislative session has come to a close, I will be busy traveling around the 149th district and working on many issues important to you and your family. I hope you will take a look at this newsletter to learn more about the issues I have been working on, and the progress we have made.

There are many great things happening throughout Buffalo, Lackawanna, and Hamburg, and I look forward to continuing to serve and fight for this community. Please contact my office if I can ever be of any assistance. I wish you and your family the best for the rest of 2016.

Sincerely,

Sean M. Ryan

Assemblyman Sean Ryan Delivering Results for Western New Yorkers



Reforming Albany

Pushing through ethics reforms in Albany was one of my top priorities this year. In the Assembly, we passed a bill to close the LLC loophole to help take big money out of politics. The LLC loophole allows corporations registered as LLCs to donate unlimited sums of money to candidates in New York. Closing this loophole will go a long way toward reforming campaign finance in our state. The Assembly also voted to restrict outside income for state legislators. I view my work in the Assembly as a full-time commitment, and I think legislators' outside pay should be severely restricted. Finally, the Assembly and the Senate passed a resolution to amend our state constitution to take state pensions away from elected officials convicted of corruption. Politicians are not above the law. If they defraud the people, they should lose their pension.

Addressing the Heroin and Opioid Epidemic

The heroin and opioid epidemic has touched every corner of our state. The number of heroin and opioid related deaths in Erie County has reached epidemic levels. This is truly a public health crisis. Back in February, I announced comprehensive legislation to combat this epidemic, by focusing on increasing doctor education. I am pleased that at the end of our legislative session, the Assembly and Senate passed a comprehensive plan which includes a provision to mandate ongoing doctor education in the areas of addiction, pain management, and palliative care. The legislation we passed will also reduce insurance barriers to treatment, and increase the availability of opioid treatment programs. Many heroin users start by using legal prescription opioid pain medication. When they can no longer access legally prescribed opioids, they turn to heroin. By improving doctor education, we are getting to the root of the problem, and preventing people from becoming lifelong opioid addicts. The legislation will help to prevent opioid addiction, expand access to treatment, and most importantly, save lives.



Investing In Education

The state budget I helped to pass this year increases education aid by \$1.47 billion – or 6.3 percent – for a total of \$24.7 billion, representing the largest investment in education in New York history. We owe it to our children to provide a great, comprehensive education that challenges and empowers them so that each and every student has the skills they need to succeed and build a secure life for themselves. This year's budget strengthens our public school system so that it fosters innovation, instills in all students a desire to learn and grants every child a fair shot at success. The budget also provides \$433 million to fully eliminate the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) once and for all, putting an end to the hardship it has caused our schools and to the burden it has placed on local taxpayers. Finally doing away with the GEA will help prevent teacher layoffs and program cuts.



Paid Family Leave

No New Yorker should have to choose between collecting a paycheck and taking care of a loved one. The state budget I helped to pass this year included a Paid Family Leave program that, when fully phased in, will afford employees 12 weeks of paid leave per year to care for a new child or family member in need. Paid family leave will ensure that workers can take time off without having to sacrifice their financial security. The Assembly Majority has led the way on this issue, and I am so happy we were able to make it the law of the land in New York State.

Reforming Outdated Alcohol Laws

Thanks to a focus on repealing prohibition-era laws, craft breweries and distilleries are booming in Western New York. The commonsense changes we have made to our state alcohol laws in recent years have been good for consumers and businesses alike. This year, I worked hard to pass the Brunch Bill allowing alcohol sales at restaurants starting at 10 a.m. on Sunday. Because of an outdated state law, convenience stores were allowed to sell beer before noon on Sunday, but restaurants were not allowed to serve Mimosas or Bloody Marys with Sunday brunch before noon. Allowing restaurants to serve patrons before noon on Sunday will help give these businesses a boost, and allow New Yorkers to enjoy alcoholic beverages in a responsible manner.



Increasing the Minimum Wage

Every New Yorker who puts in an honest day's work deserves a livable wage. The state budget I helped to pass this year recognizes this and increases the minimum wage to help lift working families out of poverty and give them a pathway to the middle class. No person living in the state of New York who is working full time should be living in poverty. By raising the minimum wage to a real living wage, we can actually save state resources by lowering the amount of funding needed for social safety-net programs. Reducing the reliance on food stamps, and other government support programs, will help to save taxpayer dollars across the state. Raising the minimum wage to a living wage is good for the state, for businesses, and for hard-working Western New Yorkers.



The Queen City Bike Ferry

I was proud to see my idea of expanded connectivity on the waterfront take shape last summer with the Queen City Bike Ferry. Over 50,000 people took a ride on the ferry last summer, greatly exceeding our expectations. The ferry is now back for the summer season with an improved landing area on the Outer Harbor. This improved landing area will help to streamline the entry and exit process, and allow the ferry to increase the number of trips and riders it can transport per day. Head on down to Canalside and the Outer Harbor this summer to check it out!



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**Serving the 149th
Assembly District**

Summer 2016



Preventing Toxic Algae in Lake Erie

I recently joined many environmental organizations to push for changes to a draft plan released by the State of Ohio that aims to reduce levels of phosphorus entering Lake Erie. The plan, mandated by a federal agreement, is inadequate and will not help to significantly reduce phosphorus in Lake Erie. Phosphorus is the main food source that contributes to the growth of toxic blue-green algae. Blue-green algae can be deadly to humans, fish, and birds, and contaminated the water supply in the City of Toledo, Ohio so badly in 2014 that the city water system had to be shut down for three days. Big factory farms along the Maumee River in Ohio are the biggest contributor of phosphorus from manure and fertilizer. The Ohio plan needs to be more aggressive and require crop and livestock producers to adopt conservation plans to reduce phosphorus run-off. I am going to keep pushing for changes to this plan, so that we can prevent toxic algae from taking over Lake Erie.

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