



**WELFARE ABUSE
HURTS
AVERAGE WORKING
FAMILIES EVERY DAY**

Welfare abuse increases taxes for everyone else.



Assemblyman Andy Goodell has a plan to improve the welfare system...

Assemblyman
Andy Goodell
Putting You First!

Dear Friends:

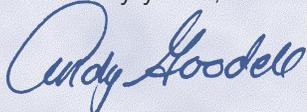
Chautauqua County residents are kind, generous, and considerate. Hardly a week goes by without a fund-raiser or a benefit to help a local person or family with medical bills or unexpected costs or to raise funds for a local soup kitchen, food pantry, or other charity.

If we are truly compassionate, we also want to do everything reasonably possible to get people off of welfare as soon as possible and on a course of financial prosperity and self-sufficiency. That is why I support job training programs, work-experience programs, and other programs designed to help get people back to work.

There are certainly people that need our help. But when people abuse the welfare system by refusing to look for work, abusing drugs, or choosing to have more children while on welfare, they are taking money from their hard-working neighbors who are forced to pay higher taxes to pay these expenses.

Enclosed you will find several steps that I support to reform the welfare system. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact my office.

Sincerely yours,



Assemblyman Andy Goodell



Welfare Reform: What can be done?

Assemblyman Goodell has proposed several initiatives to reduce welfare abuse.

Able-bodied welfare recipients should be job-ready.

- ✓ To ensure that able-bodied welfare recipients are participating in work experience programs and job training, Assemblyman Goodell drafted A5630 to streamline the process of resolving any issues or ending benefits to a welfare recipient who refuses to participate in the welfare-to-work program. He also supported increased funding for job training initiatives and the summer youth employment program.
- ✓ Since many manufacturers and other employers require drug testing, welfare recipients should be drug free. (And they should not be using tax dollars to buy illegal drugs!) Assemblyman Goodell introduced A5026 to allow local social services districts to do random drug testing, followed by mandatory treatment for those who fail the drug test.
- ✓ Recognizing that a basic education is key to employability, Assemblyman Goodell is sponsoring legislation (A9185) to require teenagers to complete high school or be involved in GED classes as a condition for welfare eligibility.
- ✓ In an effort to improve efficiency and cut administrative costs, Assemblyman Goodell introduced A5630 to enable local social services districts to use video conferencing equipment for fair hearings.
- ✓ Assemblyman Goodell supported changes in the Food Stamp program to require able-bodied recipients to be engaged in work experience, job training, or employment programs.

Welfare benefits should not be better than the private sector.

- ✓ Assemblyman Goodell is sponsoring A4894 to align Medicaid benefit levels to the health insurance benefits generally available in the private sector so that those on Medicaid do not have better coverage than those who are working in the private sector.
- ✓ Assemblyman Goodell introduced A4899 to eliminate the ability of a welfare recipient to own two homes and still be eligible for welfare benefits. Instead, welfare eligibility would be consistent with the homestead exemptions that apply to everyone else.

Welfare fraud should be eliminated.

- ✓ As a co-sponsor of the bipartisan Public Assistance Integrity Act (A2386), Assemblyman Goodell supports efforts to prevent welfare recipients from using their benefit cards for gambling, liquor stores, or adult entertainment.
- ✓ In an effort to encourage more Medicaid fraud investigations, Assemblyman Goodell drafted A5042 to create incentives for county governments to investigate and prosecute Medicaid fraud.

Your ideas and suggestions are welcome!

Please contact Assemblyman Goodell at goodella@assembly.state.ny.us, or call his office at 664-7773.

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