

WINTER UPDATE FROM ASSEMBLYMEMBER **Pamela J. Hunter**

Serving the people of the 128th Assembly District



Dear Neighbor,

I hope that you and your families are enjoying the new year. It is my privilege to continue fighting for our communities alongside my colleagues in the Legislature.

I have enjoyed connecting with the community I represent while working to pass legislation that helps our families thrive. Central New York is home to some of the most amazing charitable organizations and exceptional people in the state, and I am always happy to spotlight their achievements.

As always, I will continue to fight for our most vulnerable populations and small businesses and will be a strong advocate for Central New York. We accomplished so much together in 2022; with your support, I intend to make 2023 even better.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pamela J. Hunter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Assemblymember Pamela J. Hunter

In the Community



There is no shortage of things to do in our community. Here are some of the many events and activities I was able to attend in the second half of 2022.

Juneteenth

Juneteenth weekend was filled with celebration, community and culture! I was happy and honored to celebrate the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States with members of our amazing community.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace

On June 23, it was my privilege to visit National Grid's volunteer efforts to support Sleep in Heavenly Peace, an organization that works to build beds for children in need. Together, the volunteers built more than 125 beds for our community's children. Thank you to National Grid and to Sleep in Heavenly Peace for all that you do!

CNY Pride

Nothing but love at the CNY Pride Festival! I was honored to speak at this wonderful event on June 25, and I'll always stand as an ally and friend of the LGBTQ+ community.

Celebrating 32 Years of the Americans with Disabilities Act

In honor of the 32nd anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), I attended the flag-raising in front of Syracuse City Hall on July 5. This landmark passage fundamentally shifted us forward in the fight for equity and fair treatment under the law. I celebrated alongside all the fantastic advocates at this year's event.

Elks Lodge Family Fun Day

Family fun on the South Side! I had a blast at the Elks Lodge Family Fun Day on July 9, where I was excited to sponsor a bike giveaway. With a bounce house, live music and plenty of local vendors, there was so much to do for everyone!

World Refugee Day

I was thrilled to celebrate the immense resilience, value and diversity of New York's refugee community at this year's World Refugee Day event on July 9 in front of Syracuse City Hall.

Emmaus Ministry Visit

On July 20, I had the honor of touring the facilities at Emmaus Ministry. Their organization works to provide meals, bagged groceries, casework and legal assistance to our community. They recently finished construction on a dental and medical clinic to serve those in need regardless of insurance.

Liverpool Summer Concert Series

On July 27, I had a great time sponsoring the "Liverpool is the Place" summer concert series. It was wonderful to hear the live music and spend time in the park!

JMA Wireless Ribbon Cutting

I was happy to join in the ribbon-cutting that officially opened the JMA Wireless 5G manufacturing campus and new global headquarters in southeast Syracuse on July 27. This project is an excellent investment in Central New York that's expected to create 200 jobs and invest over \$100 million in the region.

Stomping Grounds

In September, I launched a new video series, "Stomping Grounds," which highlights your favorite people, places and events in Central New York. So far, I've had the chance to highlight some of the area's incredible small businesses and local creatives.

Shades of Inspiration Inc.

On Oct. 30, I attended the Shades of Inspiration Inc. Gala and was honored to receive a Community Service Recognition Award. Meeting this incredible group of women breast cancer survivors was simply inspiring.

Oneida Indian Nation Veterans Recognition Ceremony

I spent Veterans Day at the American Legion Dunbar Post 1642's annual flag retirement ceremony, and celebrated as Spectrum presented a check to the Dunbar Post for renovations to their building.

Altamont House Veterans Housing Grand Opening

On Nov. 14, I attended the Grand Opening of Altamont House Veterans Housing. This newly renovated facility will provide much-needed transitional housing to homeless veterans.





National Policy

NCOIL Annual National Meeting

From Nov. 16 through 19, I was in New Orleans for the National Council of Insurance Legislators' (NCOIL) Annual National Meeting. NCOIL is a legislative organization focused on educating state lawmakers on insurance issues and improving insurance legislation nationwide.

This year, I was honored to be elected treasurer of this valuable organization. As an active member of NCOIL for five years, my greatest achievement remains what I've been able to do as chair of the Health and Long-Term Care Committee. As the first African American woman elected as an officer in this organization, I look forward to sharing my diverse viewpoint and years of experience helping to make fair insurance policy.

One of my latest pushes in this organization is to adopt model language that will provide for greater insurance coverage of "biomarker" based medicine. As medical science advances, the resources available for illness prevention and treatment have greatly increased. With current testing, treatments can have an individualized approach based on the specific biology of a patient. Certain gene expressions, for example, can be detected and considered for particular ailments. Should my model bill pass at NCOIL, it will become much more likely that coverage for biomarker testing will become available across the country.

Legislative Updates

2022 Enacted Legislation

December 2022 saw some of my final bills that were pending approval from the Governor get signed into law. Bills benefitting veterans, our local small businesses, our fire departments and those in need of social services have all been enacted after receiving the support of both houses and final approval from the Governor last year. Some highlights include:

- A3582-A: Permanently extends the time period to access New York's courts because of exposure to Agent Orange during the Vietnam War. While the time period where exposure occurred is fixed, complications were slow to emerge, and some complications are multi-generational. My bill removes the sunset of this law to ensure all veterans of this era can pursue compensation for exposure.
- A5817-A: Requires social service offices to post a list of all services available to consumers/applicants. Social services can sometimes be difficult to navigate. The new law puts certain commonly needed services on an easy to read list that's visible in social service offices. While information can be found online, those accessing services are more likely to have reduced internet access.
- A8715: This bill was also enacted to benefit our veterans. This new law improves the reporting of veteran suicides and allows our policies to be more informed so that we may better prevent these daily tragedies.
- A10237: This is a routine but important bill. This bill allows the Salina Consolidated Fire District to recruit more members from

outside of its boundaries. While well intentioned, residency requirements for firefighters are becoming harder to comply with given the current labor environment. These exemptions are vital to keep well-staffed departments for public safety.

Named Chair of the Banking Committee

State Assembly Speaker Carl E. Heastie appointed me to chair the Assembly Committee on Banks. Since joining the state Assembly, I have sponsored and co-sponsored numerous pieces of legislation that protected consumers, supported small businesses, improved employment opportunities and lifted people out of poverty.

While the banking environment has changed significantly, with the broader adoption of cryptocurrencies and the legalization of cannabis, I look forward to taking on these challenges as chair of the Banks Committee.

As a member of the Insurance Committee, I've worked with the state Department of Financial Services (DFS), industry representatives and our communities on financial issues. Many of our communities are underserved, with limited branch hours and access. I'll work with my colleagues and the many stakeholders within this space to make our banks more accessible and turn these new challenges into opportunities.

Exceptional Women of CNY

I will host my annual Exceptional Women of CNY ceremony on May 6 at the Liverpool Library's Carman Community Room at 11 a.m.

Constituent Survey

During the month of January, I conducted a survey on various issues and legislation to hear what is most important to my constituents. This feedback will help me immensely during this year's legislative session as I advocate for resources and measures that support our region. I'm focused on keeping our communities safe, supporting local businesses and putting money back into the pockets of Central New York families.

Q: Do you support mandating that all new buildings be built to solely use electricity?

Oppose - **48%**
Support - **30%**
Unsure - **22%**

Q: Would you support legislation to legalize and regulate accessory dwelling units?

Support - **60%**
Unsure - **23%**
Oppose - **17%**

Q: How has inflation impacted you and your family or business?

Price increases/Materials/goods cost more - **58%**
Supply chain disruption/Items I want to purchase are not available/on back order - **30%**
Rising wages/An increase in what is being paid to workers - **6%**
Government policies and regulations - **6%**

Q: How serious of a problem do you think crime is in NYS in comparison to other states?

About the same - **53%**
Worse - **19%**
Significantly worse - **17%**
Better - **10%**
Significantly better - **1%**

Q: Do you think crime is worse in NYC than other US cities?

About the same - **49%**
Worse - **22%**
Significantly worse - **21%**
Better - **8%**
Significantly better - **0%**

Q: Do you think crime is worse in your community than other US cities?

About the same - **38%**
Better - **23%**
Worse - **23%**
Significantly worse - **16%**
Significantly better - **0%**

Q: Which of the following do you think can be attributed to crime?

Untreated Mental Health Issues - **24%**
Proliferation of illegal guns - **19%**
Economic factors - **17%**
Homelessness/lack of housing - **15%**
NY Bail Laws - **14%**
Lack of addiction services - **7%**
Influx of migrants - **4%**

Q: Would you support legislation that requires municipalities to give excess proceeds to the previous owner after the tax debt has been paid with interest?

Support - **50%**
Oppose - **31%**
Unsure - **19%**

Q: Should we continue to raise the minimum wage beyond \$15.00?

Yes - **54%**
No - **29%**
Unsure - **17%**

Q: Do you oppose or support the Clean Slate Act?

Support - **42%**
Oppose - **35%**
Unsure - **23%**

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ASSEMBLYMEMBER **Pamela J. Hunter**

Serving the people of the 128th Assembly District

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"We've accomplished so much together, but we're far from finished. Together, there is no end to the ways we can enact positive change and make our community thrive!"

-Assemblymember Pamela J. Hunter

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