



New York State Assembly Weekly Report

From Assistant Speaker

FELIX W. ORTIZ

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Please learn about two important health issues at these websites:

Find a facility that can help people battling eating disorders at:
<http://columbiapsychiatry.org/eatingdisorders/directions>

Register and become an organ donor at:
<http://donatelife.net/?s=new+york>

If you have a comment or suggestion regarding the upcoming year and 2016 session, please send an email, "like" the Facebook page and follow on Twitter.

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State Senator Liz Krueger and I, joined by State Senator Brad Hoylman, hosted a forum on divesting the New York State Common Retirement Fund from fossil fuel holdings. Discussion centered around the Fossil Fuel Divestment Act (S.5873/A.8011-A), with financial and environmental experts speaking, including Bill McKibben, Co-Founder of 350.org and a leader of the global fossil fuel divestment movement.

The Fossil Fuel Divestment Act (S.5873/A.8011-A) would require the State Comptroller to divest the New York State Common Retirement Fund from all holdings in the 200 largest publicly traded fossil fuel companies, as defined by carbon content in the companies' proven oil, gas, and coal reserves (the CU 200). Divestment from coal companies would be completed within one year; divestment from all other fossil fuel companies would be completed by January 1, 2020.

Sen. Krueger and I recently authored an op-ed in Crain's, along with New York City Council Member Helen Rosenthal, outlining the financial risks of continued investment in fossil fuel producers.

Speakers at the forum, which took place in the Legislative Office Building in Albany, included financial and investment experts, union representatives, and environmental and community advocates. A representative from the American Petroleum Institute also offered comments, expressing oil and gas companies' opposition to divestment. The State Comptroller's office was unable to send a representative due to scheduling conflicts, but has agreed to coordinate on another forum to take place later in the year.



Celebrating Brooklyn Lantern Day with NYPD, Senator Chuck Schumer, Brooklyn Community Improvement Association and so many others.



I asked the MTA to open access transportation routes to the Red Hook, Sunset Park and Boerum Hill bus line for better waterfront access.

This week in the Assembly, I announced the passage of my bill, [A4913-A](#), to create a new funding stream for the state's 231 school-based health centers. School-based health centers (SBHCs) are often the core of a community.

Creation of a state income tax check-off box for donations will permit expansion of services and development of new sites to provide these vital health services. SBHCs provide preventive services for such chronic conditions as epileptic seizures, asthma, diabetes, gastroenteritis, urinary tract infections, nutritional deficiencies, and pelvic inflammatory disease. Mental health services offered at some of these clinics have produced significant declines in depression and improvements in wellness. Eighty percent of the state's SBHCs are located in metropolitan areas.

As tax season approaches we are reminded of the value of check-off boxes for donations to important issues like our children's health. Every dollar counts. A special check-off box for donations to school-based health centers on personal income tax returns will be a financial lifeline to those who need their services. These centers are a family's best defense against costly hospitalization and a source of vital health services for our children in high need areas.



I want to thank advocates from Lutheran Family Health Center for coming to Albany to push for the bill. In the 51st district alone the Lutheran Family Health Center has a number of service delivery sites that provide vital comprehensive health care to over 70,000 medically underserved patients. They advocate for continued financial and legislative support to sustain services that support and enrich the lives of many Brooklyn residents.