



NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY WEEKLY REPORT

Assistant Speaker

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Working for Our Community in Albany and Brooklyn

July 16, 2018

ORTIZ URGES SENATE COLLEAGUES TO PASS EXPIRING SPEED CAMERA LEGISLATION



I am urging my colleagues in the State Senate to return to Albany to vote to extend and expand the speed camera program set to expire on July 25, 2018. The Assembly passed the measure on June 18th to a vote of 95-43.

Speeding is the #1 cause of traffic fatalities in New York, and speed cameras are proven to reduce the number of pedestrian deaths that occur, many of which are children. Speed cameras slow drivers down and improve safety. This week, doctors and nurses from NYU Langone Hospital - Brooklyn who are tired of seeing so many senseless injuries from speeding teamed up with Transportation Alternatives and Families for Safe Streets to advocate for community safety. To see video from the event: [click here](#).



In June, I helped pass legislation in the Assembly that would extend and expand speed cameras in our school districts, but it is currently being held up in Senate. We can't afford a single tragic incident to hurt a child unnecessarily. Senators, please return to Albany and help save lives. We have to put children before politics.

ORTIZ LEGISLATION TO BAN TEXTING AT RED LIGHTS.



I recently introduced the "Anti-Distracted Driving Act" that would clarify using an electronic device while stopped at a traffic light, stop sign, railroad crossing or traffic delays. For information on the bill: [click here](#). Many accidents at red lights are caused when the driver realizes that the light had changed but the driver failed to notice other cars moving after the light changed to green.

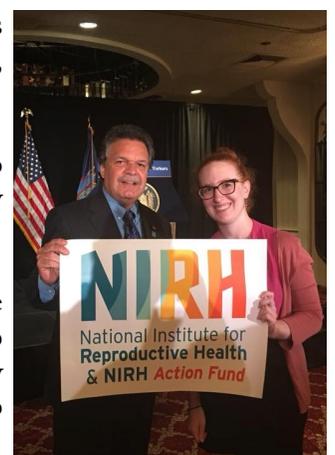
I have championed driver safety since New York enacted my legislation creating the nation's first ban on handheld cellphones while driving. I also introduced legislation to amend the state's vehicle and traffic law by prohibiting pedestrians from using portable electronic devices while crossing a roadway.

It is common sense that you should never text when behind the wheel. A life can be lost by foolish texting regardless of whether the driver is moving or waiting for the light to change. This bill ends the ambiguity that you can never text while the ignition key is on. We must all stare aware for the safety of oneself and others.

On July 19-20, 1848, the **Seneca Falls Convention** was the first women's rights convention held in the United States. It was a "convention to discuss the social, civil, and religious condition and rights of woman."

On the anniversary of this ground breaking event, let's take the time to commemorate the extraordinary contribution made by women throughout history in the fight for equal rights and representation that continues today.

Last week, I joined the Governor, Brooklyn leaders, and the National Institute for Reproductive Health Action Fund to fight back against the Trump administration's draconian agenda on reproductive rights. We must say no to any SCOTUS nominee who will dismantle all of the progress that has been made to assure that women have access to imperative reproductive health resources.



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