



*Assistant Speaker Félix W. Ortiz*

# WEEKLY REPORT

May 31st, 2019



## FIGHTING CANCER FOR ALL

I took part in a panel the Cancer Action Network sponsored to discuss the differences that are persisting in cancer incidence and mortality rates by racial/ethnic minorities.

Cancer rates are decreasing across the nation but not everyone is benefiting from the advances that have been made in prevention, early detection and treatment. Racial/ethnic minorities are still falling behind and policies need to be created that will help close this health disparity.

Minorities are more likely to develop and die from various types of cancer and they are less likely to get screened for certain types of cancer. For example, Spanish-speaking Hispanics are less likely to be screened for Colo-rectal cancer than whites or English-speaking Hispanics.

While we work on solutions to this issue, I hope that everyone is doing the right thing for their health by visiting their doctors regularly and getting screened for everything recommended. The life you save truly can be your own.



## GLOBAL DISABILITY AWARENESS

I've had a lot of visitors this session representing individuals with disabilities. I respect all of them greatly for making the trek to Albany to fight for accessible public transportation and funding for programs that allow them to remain independent.

On May 16, Global Accessibility Awareness Day was celebrated, reminding us that the rights of the disabled are a global issues. We should always keep in mind what we can do to make life the best it can be for everyone on our planet.



## HELPING FAMILIES SUCCEED

The Federal government is making it more and more difficult for low and moderate income families and those not born in the United States to survive and succeed.

New York has a responsibility to these families. They are the backbone of our state. I spoke at a press conference in support of various bills that will strengthen the Empire State Child Credit and increase and expand the NYS Earned Income Tax Credit for families and young adults. These working families deserve our support.



## PASSING LEGISLATION THAT SUPPORTS LGBTQ YOUTH

My bill to support LGBTQ youth (A.3619-A) was passed in the Assembly. This bill will require that all employees of programs providing care to runaway and/or homeless youth attend LGBTQ specific training.

Many of these young people have faced difficult family situations due to their sexual orientation and/or gender expression. This legislation will ensure that homeless youth of all orientations are treated with respect and sensitivity.



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