



News from

Assemblymember Pamela J. Hunter

**Summer
2016**

711 East Genesee St., 2nd Floor
Syracuse, NY 13210
315-449-9536
HunterP@nyassembly.gov

LEGISLATIVE SPOTLIGHT

This past March, I introduced a bill to help veterans exposed to Agent Orange that extends the deadline to sue the chemical's producers. More conditions and diseases are now believed to be associated with exposure to Agent Orange, including Hodgkin's disease, prostate cancer, adult-onset diabetes mellitus (Type II), Parkinson's disease, ischemic heart disease, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and respiratory cancers.

In May, I authored legislation to extend the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Pesticide Container Repair Interim Policy, which passed the Assembly. The policy, released in 2009, allows New York retailers to make minor repairs to damaged pesticide product containers to eliminate unnecessary waste, provided the repairs are approved by the EPA. Additionally, I authored a piece of legislation this summer that limits denial of coverage of additional treatment to health care services for which pre-authorization is required and was granted. This bill helps ensure patients receive medically necessary services when they are in a medically compromised state and prevents plans from delaying or denying necessary treatment on the sole basis that they were not specifically prior authorized.

Later in the month, the Assembly passed legislation I vocally supported that aims to address the growing problem of abandoned residential properties due to foreclosure in our communities, also known as "zombie properties." To combat these growing problems and to protect the rights of homeowners, this legislation would allow homeowners to challenge

the legality of a foreclosure proceeding at any point during the foreclosure process and would clarify the law regarding mandatory settlement conferences, which are often critical in negotiating better outcomes in order to preserve homeownership.

I had the opportunity to witness the Governor signing the bill into law right here in Central New York. I'm pleased to announce the Attorney General has made \$13 million available to the state to help combat this problem.



Flood Maps Extended

The federal government recently added 876 properties to Syracuse's flood zone. This means that if you are a property owner with a mortgage that is in this zone, you will have to purchase flood insurance. There was a workshop held at the Southwest Community Center on September 8 with representatives from DEC and FEMA to help people identify if their property will fall into the new zone and walk them through the appeals process.

Additionally, the town of Onondaga will be having a public hearing on September 19 at 5 p.m. at the Onondaga Town Hall to discuss the Flood Map changes in the area. If you are unable to attend, visit FEMA's Flood Map Service Center at www.msc.fema.gov or call 877-FEMA-MAP(877-336-2627) for more information. Syracuse.com also has a database to check if your home is located on the flood map which you can visit at www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2016/08/was_your_property_was_added_to_the_fema_flood_map_search_our_database.html.

STATE BUDGET UPDATE



Assemblywoman Hunter with students from West Genesee High School as they pay a visit to the Capitol.

Joining with advocates and legislators from around the state, I was able to deliver for Central New York in this year's state budget. Here are some of the highlights:

- **\$200,000 for deer population control in Syracuse and DeWitt** to finally solve a persistent issue in our community that puts residents and drivers at risk.
- **\$36 million in new aid for our schools**, including ending the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) once and for all.
- **An increase in the minimum wage statewide.** For CNY, that means the wages of working people will be raised to \$12.50 per hour by the year 2020.
- **By 2021, full-time workers will qualify for 12 weeks of paid family leave** to help care for their loved ones during emergencies without putting their livelihood at risk.
- **Freezing tuition increases at SUNY colleges** to help our students achieve the dream of higher education.
- **Middle-class tax cuts totaling \$3 billion over seven years.**
- **\$28 million to combat the heroin epidemic**, because when Onondaga County is number one in overdose deaths statewide, our representatives have to act.
- **A return to parity for upstate transportation infrastructure**, ensuring that roads and bridges in Central New York get the attention they need.

Exceptional Women of CNY Awards

I hosted the first annual Exceptional Women of CNY Awards, where I spoke and gave out awards to 6 different women in the Central New York area who've made a positive impact in our community. Congratulations to all on this honor!



Award winners, pictured left to right: Victims' Advocate– Jennifer Nadler, Business– Brenda Colella, Education– Eva Williams, Assemblywoman Hunter, Medicine– Dr. Nienke Dosa, Community Activist– Myrlene M. Jones, Mother of the Year– Ann Winderl

Valentines for Vets

As a U.S. Army veteran, I know firsthand how important it is to support our veterans in a variety of ways. To show our gratitude, I collected over 300 Valentine's Day cards made by K-3 students from Woodland Elementary School and personally delivered them to veterans at the Syracuse V.A. Medical Center in time for Valentine's Day this February.

Most recently, I had the pleasure to speak at "Women Proudly Served Appreciation Day" at Clear Path for Veterans, where I explained my backstory and how important it is to recognize the women who have served our country.



IN OUR COMMUNITY

Bassmaster Governor's Challenge

I participated in the Governor's Fishing Challenge on June 25 to aid tourism in our region. I and other participants were paired with professional anglers to try our hand at the fishing challenge on Onondaga Lake. I am proud to say that we caught the largest freshwater muskie!



Fight the Bite CNY

My office attended the "Fight the Bite" Forum at the Carrier Theatre in Downtown Syracuse. This event, sponsored by the Onondaga County Health Department, explained the many dangers and causes of tick and mosquito-related diseases, and how to prevent them. In New York State there are 30 species of ticks, 10 of which bite humans.

The Onondaga County Health Department website has print-ready documents that were handed out at the forum which contain important information related to this issue. You can find these resources at ongov.net/health/documents/Resources.pdf.

TICK TIPS

1. Using a pair of pointed tweezers, grasp the tick right where it enters the skin.
2. With a steady hand, firmly pull upward to remove the tick.
3. Place the tick in a container of rubbing alcohol to kill it.
4. Use rubbing alcohol or hydrogen peroxide to clean the wound.
5. For the next 30 days, keep an eye on the site of the bite and check for a rash.
6. If a rash appears or you come down with flu-like symptoms, immediately contact a medical professional.

District Tour with Speaker Heastie

I had the pleasure of giving Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie a tour of our local communities on July 14. We made stops at SUNY EOC, the Price Rite grocery store construction site, Jubilee Homes Urban Delights Community Garden and the Onondaga Nation's Fire Department and Fieldhouse and went on a driving tour of the Town of DeWitt and a tour of Beak & Skiff Apple Orchard. Due to his tight schedule, we were not able to visit the Town of Salina, however, he committed to touring the town during his next visit. The 128th Assembly District is one of the most diverse districts in New York containing urban, suburban and rural communities as well as a Native American reservation. This tour was helpful in showing one of our state's leaders the diversity of our region.



Americans with Disabilities Act 26th Anniversary Celebration

"See me, not my disability."

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is one of our country's most powerful pieces of civil rights legislation, making discrimination based on a "disability" illegal. I was honored to speak at the annual celebration, which was followed by a parade down Fayette Street.



IN OUR COMMUNITY



CNY STEM Hub Summer Camp for Young Women Powered by AT&T

In July, I spoke to the 30 exceptional girls who took part in the CNY STEM Hub Summer Camp for Young Women Powered by AT&T. The weeklong camp at Le Moyne College encouraged the students to enter the male-dominated field and equipped them with useful hands-on skills. The team-based projects, which involved fields such as coding, robotic engineering and computer science, were all aimed at benefiting the girl's schools and communities. More than 50 percent of the girls attend at-risk high schools, so programs like this one are important to helping them combat economic barriers.

YWCA Tour

In August, I had the pleasure of taking a tour of the YWCA complex on Douglas Street. The YWCA is a place for women to seek educational opportunities through enrichment programs, in addition to providing affordable youth development programs and safe housing for low-income women. I also served as a judge for the Girls, Inc. "DreamBuildHER" closing ceremony, an entrepreneurship program that encourages women to come up with new ideas that can improve certain businesses and products.



**Look inside
for important
community news!**



News from
Assemblymember
Pamela J.
Hunter