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Dear Neighbor,

As 2017 comes to a close, please allow me to update you on the strides I made this year as well as my goals for the year ahead.

While our unemployment rate is better than the national average, we need to continue fostering job growth, help existing businesses expand and ensure our workforce is prepared so our area can thrive in 2018.

As a member of the Assembly Committee on Labor, I've been a strong advocate for policies that help ensure good pay, benefits and safe workplaces. I fought for minimum wage increases that continue at the end of this year, as well as a paid family leave program that starts January 1st. I'll keep pushing for initiatives that support workers and strengthen families. I'll also continue fighting to protect workers and ensure that they receive proper compensation and medical care when injured on the job.

Job training and skills development can mean all the difference in securing a job. That's why as chair of the Assembly Commission on Skills Development and Career Education, I'll keep working to provide more training and workforce development programs. I championed the Empire State Apprenticeship Program (ESAP) as part of the 2017-18 state budget to provide job training and lower youth unemployment, and I'll keep working to ensure its success.

Additionally, I authored legislation that would require the state Department of Labor to publish an annual list of job training programs, as well as ensure the quality of those programs (A.1956-A). I also authored a bill to prohibit contractors who cheat workers and violate wage laws from securing state public works contracts (A.8514). Both pieces of legislation are currently waiting for the Governor's signature to be signed into law.

New Yorkers deserve to live in a state that creates opportunities and helps them succeed. I'll keep doing my part in the Assembly to create jobs, boost our economy and help our region thrive. If you have any questions or comments, please contact or visit my office.

Sincerely,

Harry B. Bronson

Member of Assembly

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