

Dear Neighbors,

Having the opportunity to serve our community is not only a tremendous honor but is also a responsibility that I take very seriously. I was blessed to grow up in this community, it is where my family has planted roots, and I will fight to make sure that families and future generations can thrive and call Western New York home.

It's no secret that New York State is facing many self-inflicted crises; an affordability and inflation crisis¹, the migrant crisis², a childcare crisis³, a public safety crisis⁴ and a housing crisis⁵. We are at a critical fiscal breaking point, and we cannot spend our way to prosperity.

1 <https://scri.siena.edu/2024/03/13/majorities-spending-more-today-on-groceries-housing-70-say-inflation-still-a-big-problem-33-are-falling-behind/>
2 <https://cis.org/North/NY-State-Squandered-21-Billion-Keep-Illegals>

3 <https://www.news10.com/news/ny-news/despite-reforms-new-york-faces-childcare-cost-crisis/>
4 <https://nypost.com/2024/03/05/opinion/how-bail-reform-drove-a-66-recidivism-rate-for-repeat-crooks/>
5 <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/12/11/realestate/housing-market-2024-2025.html>

Fighting for Our Community

While I have many state-level priorities, I also remain deeply committed to advocating for our local needs here in Western New York.

Affordability

The reality of this current “affordability” crisis that we are in is relatively easy to understand. Simply put, wages have not risen commensurate with inflation and the prices of goods and services.⁶

The question becomes, what do we do about it?

I believe the solution is twofold: using government instruments to lessen consumers’ pain through tax relief and lowering the cost of doing business in New York State to stabilize prices while at the same time organically drive wages up.

- ▶ **Inflation Relief & Consumer Assistance Plan:** Eliminate sales tax on dozens of everyday items for two years, including (but not limited to) gasoline, personal care products, housekeeping supplies, and prepared foods (A.1690 of 2024, Barclay).
- ▶ **Earned Income Tax Credit Expansion:** Expand the New York State value of the Earned Income Tax Credit from 30 percent to 45 percent of the federal amount (A.5661, Barclay).

Childcare

While providing financial relief to families is critical, we also must expand our definition of childcare. Whether that be a traditional daycare center, church

program, grandparent or family member watching a child in home, a neighbor or a nanny, families deserve options and should have access to the childcare model that works for them (A.2265 and A.2392).

Supporting our Volunteer Firefighters

While volunteer fire companies across the state are struggling with recruitment and retention, our rural communities face particular challenges. We are at a critical juncture in rural areas across New York State and it is our responsibility to create solutions that support our Volunteer Fire Companies, and more importantly, help bolster membership and recruitment efforts so that when the siren rings there are more than enough people to answer the call. I am proud to support a package of legislation that works toward finding these solutions (A.4414, A.4720 and A.516). Our first responders play such a vital role in our communities, and it is important that we do all we can to support their needs.

Supporting Family Farms

Our family farms are the backbone of our local economy. I am fighting to make sure our farms can thrive and grow. This starts with repealing the farm workers overtime law that went into effect in 2019. In addition, farms across the state rely on affordable energy and making sure that traditional energy sources are still available to farmers is critical (A.5395).

6 <https://www.news10.com/news/ny-news/new-york-minimum-wage-goes-up-on-january-1/>



Thank you to our dedicated correction officers for their tireless work to keep our community safe. Proud to stand with them in service to our district.



I introduced a resolution in honor of the late Flora Leamer, commemorating her incredible contributions to our community. Her legacy will continue to inspire us all.



Supporting local businesses is always a priority. Let's keep helping our local entrepreneurs thrive!



It was a joy to see students spreading love this Valentine's Day by making cards for our senior citizens. A small act that brings so much joy to those who need it most!

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Community News

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Assembly Update**

Thank you for your continued support. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas. Together, we can build a stronger, more prosperous future for our community.

While January was my first month in Albany, it's just the beginning of the work that lies ahead. I am committed to fighting for the issues that matter most to you, and I will keep you updated every step of the way. I'm proud to be your voice in the Assembly, and I'm excited about the progress we can make together.

Looking Ahead...