



## SENATOR JIM ALESI



### Community Update 08/15/12

#### **Rochester-area Athletes Shine at the Olympics**



We have much to be proud of locally as the Olympic Ceremonies wrapped up Sunday. In addition to athletes with local ties earning medals and excelling athletically – soccer player Abby Wambach, pole vaulter Jenn Suhr, swimmer Ryan Lochte, rower Meghan Musnicki, and rower Henrik Rummel – these athletes also demonstrated true sportsmanship and dedication. Congratulations to all athletes of the 2012 Olympic Games!

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#### **Addressing Dangerous New Drug Threat**

Dear Neighbor,

“Bath salts” is the misleading name for an assortment of dangerous new drugs that are posing a serious threat to public health in New York State. The problem has become so serious that our state Attorney General has sued 16 businesses to get these products off the shelves.

That is why I was very pleased that Governor Cuomo recently took action to crack down on bath salts and synthetic marijuana by issuing tough new regulations to help prevent their sale and possession.

However, we need to go even further to stop the scourge of these terrible drugs that are

causing deaths and acts of violence. That is why I am calling on the State Assembly to pass the Senate's bill ([S.6694](#)) to impose felony-level penalties for the sale and possession of bath salts and synthetic marijuana.

The legislation would impose new felony sanctions on individuals who continue to push bath salts and synthetic marijuana. In fact, anyone caught selling these drugs to minors on or near school grounds could get up to 25 years in prison.

Parents who have lost children and others who have suffered from these drugs would agree that the Assembly should join the Senate in passing this bill and sending the strongest possible message that New York will not tolerate the sale or possession of bath salts and synthetic marijuana. We must do everything we can to ensure the safety and well-being of all New Yorkers.

Sincerely,



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### **New Unclaimed Funds Law**

Currently, there are over \$11 billion in unclaimed funds in New York State. I want to inform you about a new [law](#) to protect you from being charged to retrieve your unclaimed funds.

Unclaimed funds are funds such as un-cashed checks, old bank accounts, wages, utility deposits, and stocks and dividends that people have forgotten or left dormant. State law requires banks, utilities, and many other businesses and companies to turn over these inactive accounts to the [State Comptroller's Office](#), which holds the funds in trust until they can be reclaimed by their rightful owner.

You can search and apply for unclaimed funds for *free* through the State Comptroller's Office. However, many residents are not aware and are paying companies to search and retrieve these funds – something they can do on their own at no cost.

The new law will soon require these companies to inform you that you can retrieve unclaimed funds on your own without a fee, ensuring you can make an informed decision based on the facts before you are charged. To see if you have money waiting to be claimed, click [here](#).

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