



# SENATOR JIM ALESI



**Community Update: 11/30/11**

## **Legislation to Strengthen New York's Sexual Abuse Reporting Requirements**

In the wake of the Penn State scandal and recent allegations here in Western New York at Syracuse University, I have joined colleagues in the Legislature to introduce legislation to strengthen New York State's child abuse reporting requirements. The College Coaches and Professionals Reporting Act closes a loophole in current reporting requirements by including college coaches, athletic directors, professors, graduate assistants, administrators and college presidents in the State's list of mandated reporters of child abuse. The legislation I am co-sponsoring would require these individuals to notify authorities of sexual abuse of children or face a criminal charge.

I support more aggressive proposals to strengthen mandatory reporting requirements to include anyone entrusted with the safety and well-being of our children. It is imperative that those in direct contact with children are required to report any mistreatment and abuse. I will join in any legislative effort to ensure that children are sheltered from emotional and physical abuse. In the meantime, I will continue my active support for organizations, like the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and Bivona Child Advocacy Center, that are dedicated to protecting young children and their families from the emotional and physical trauma of abuse. Together we must eradicate child abuse from our society, to prevent the horrific, alleged crimes that occurred at Penn State and Syracuse University from occurring in our communities.

Known as the College Coaches and Professionals Reporting Act, this legislation is gaining bipartisan support in both the Senate and Assembly.



## Lowering Your Energy Bills



Conserving energy is always a high priority, especially with colder weather on its way. Rising fuel costs are making it more expensive for New Yorkers to heat their homes during the winter months. New York State offers a number of income-eligible programs to help individuals and families with energy costs:

The Home Energy Assistance Program ([HEAP](#)) provides grants for heating bills for income-eligible individuals and families. Applications and eligibility information can be obtained by calling the HEAP hotline at [1-800-342-3009](tel:1-800-342-3009) or by visiting their [website](#).

You may receive assistance to cover up to 50% of the cost of energy efficiency improvements through Assisted Home Performance with [ENERGY STAR](#). ENERGY STAR products and appliances cut electricity use by 20 to 50 percent to reduce monthly utility costs. Contact [NYSERDA](#) for additional details about this program.

For more information on lowering energy costs, visit the U.S. Department of Energy's website to access their "[Energy Savers Booklet](#)." Please contact my office at [\(585\) 223-1800](tel:585-223-1800) for informational brochures on lowering your energy bills.

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## Stay Informed to Keep Your Family Safe



I want to take this opportunity to make you and your family aware of one way that you can help keep your home, family, business and community safe. NY-Alert is a free, early-warning program that sends text messages, emails and even phone calls to advise you of serious hazards that can threaten safety and property. NY-Alert also works closely with local law enforcement and other agencies to deliver a broad range of emergency messages – from “Amber Alerts” involving missing children to “Missing Adult Alerts” for the elderly. In

addition, it provides important updates pertaining to school closings and serious accidents.

The program allows you to select the type of warnings you want to receive, and how you want them delivered. With winter and its severe weather just around the corner, it is the right time to consider this added level of protection for you and your family. I encourage you and your family to consider signing up for NY-Alert by clicking the following [link](#) to take advantage of these updates.

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