



SENATOR JIM ALESI

Community Update: Week Ending 3/19/10



Mandate Relief for School Districts

On Monday, March 15, 2010 the Senate passed S.5523 with my support. This legislation provides mandate relief for our school districts – real actual dollar values yielding real operational savings – and tax relief to the local property tax payer.

A key provision of this bill prohibits new state mandates that would impose a cost upon a school district once the annual district operating budget has been approved. New mandates created after that day, which impose a cost on the district, would not be implemented until the following school budget year unless required by the Governor or Federal law. Additionally, this bill provides for claims auditing and internal auditing to be shared services eligible for BOCES aid.

I am pleased to have been able to support this timely legislation in support of our local school districts, at a time when they are being called upon to close sizable budget gaps without passing along a significant tax increase to local property tax payers.

Recognizing National Poison Prevention Week

For years, I have been working to bring greater awareness to the serious toxins and carcinogens prevalent in our daily lives. I have introduced a series of bills in the Senate – sponsored by my good friend and colleague, Steve Englebright, in the Assembly – to eradicate many dangerous poisons our children are susceptible to.

My legislation includes: S.537 – requires new standards for the procurement and use of environmentally safe cleaning agents in schools; S.777 – regulates the safe purchase and storage of mercury in schools; S.6446 – prevents the use of cadmium in children’s jewelry; S.7123 – prohibits the use of bisphenol-A in children products; and S.7124 – provides for a study on the use of synthetic-turf athletic fields.

Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Special Olympics



This week, in recognition of the 40th Anniversary of the Special Olympics, I had the distinct privilege of sponsoring a resolution proclaiming March 17, 2010, as Special Olympics New York Day in the State of New York.

To celebrate Special Olympics New York Day, I was joined in Albany by Katherine Glover, Special Olympian, and Ray Polikoski and Laurie Kennedy of the Special Olympics, Genesee Region. I always enjoy the opportunity to meet with the remarkable athletes, dedicated staff and devoted volunteers with Special Olympics.

I have been a strong supporter for Special Olympics’ mission to promote unity, respect and tolerance for all people, and its ability to use sports as a vehicle to transform the lives of adults and children with intellectual disabilities. Today, nearly 50,000 athletes participate in Special Olympics programs in our state, making New York the largest program in North America, and the sixth largest program in the world.

220 PACKETT’S LANDING | FAIRPORT, NY 14450 | (585) 223-1800

ALESI@SENATE.STATE.NY.US | WWW.ALESI.NYSENATE.GOV