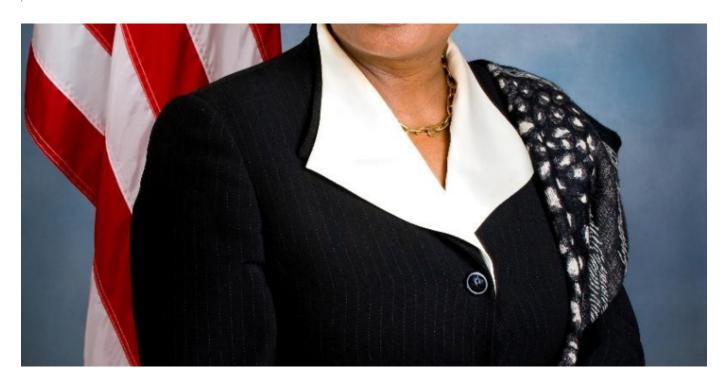


## Serrano Congratulates New Democratic Conference Leader Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins

JOSÉ M. SERRANO December 17, 2012

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(New York, NY)- "I congratulate my friend, Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins on her historic election to the role of Democratic Conference Leader in the New York State Senate. I was happy and honored to support her election and I look forward to working with her, as part of a united Democratic Conference, to tackle the numerous tasks at hand.

"Sen. Stewart-Cousins is hardworking, forthright, and widely respected on both sides of the Senate Chamber. The people of New York State have asked us to move forward on progressive legislation that is meaningful and long overdue. Under her leadership, I feel confident that we will be able to achieve great things on behalf of our constituents. Working together with Governor Andrew Cuomo, I look forward to a

very productive upcoming legislative session.

"Finally, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Senator John Sampson for his leadership, hard work, and dedication. He became our leader during a very difficult time for not only our conference, but for the Senate as a whole, and he worked very hard to get us to a much better place."