



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Catharine Young

Senate Passes "Homes for Heroes" Program

CATHARINE YOUNG February 10, 2015

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Legislation will assist service-disabled veterans making necessary improvements to their homes

ALBANY - Today, the New York State Senate passed legislation (S.2316/A.3795) sponsored by Senator Catharine Young (R,C,I-Olean) that will assist veterans with physical challenges who need modifications to their homes in order to live independently.

The "Homes for Heroes" program will establish a fund to assist New York State's veteran population so that they are able to live safely, comfortably and productively in the setting of their choice.

"Our veterans have given so much for us and they deserve even more in return. Far too many men and women come home after serving our country and because of their sacrifice they face significant difficulty accessing and affording housing. We have to do something to change that, and this important legislation will offer our support and ensure that when a veteran hero returns to civilian life they are able to return to the home of their choice, right

here in New York State.

“Iraq and Afghanistan War veterans are coming home with missing limbs and traumatic brain injuries. This legislation will provide them hope for their future and the assurance that when they are able to leave, they can go home to a place that is ready to meet their needs,” said Senator Young.

Senator Young dedicated the legislation to the late Sergeant James Hackemer of Gowanda, who returned home following his tour in Iraq with several traumatic injuries. Despite two missing legs and a traumatic brain injury (TBI), James was determined to live life to the fullest.

“It’s for heroes like Sgt. Hackemer that we passed this legislation. He was a true inspiration and we must always remember the sacrifices of the men and women in our armed services,” continued Senator Young.

Under the program, grants would be provided to not-for-profits and municipalities to help retrofit homes for disabled veterans.

“We have an aging population of World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War veterans who may need wheelchair ramps, and other changes to the physical design of their homes. Modifications can often be costly for seniors and those on fixed incomes and providing them the assistance they need will better allow them to stay near friends and family.

“Unfortunately, the Assembly failed to act on this critical legislation last year. The time has come and I urge them to move quickly to guarantee a brighter future for our veterans in need,” concluded Senator Young.

Video of Senator Young speaking on the legislation can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oXxKG6_AynA.