



## SENATOR JIM ALESI



### Community Update: 01/11/12

#### **Senator Alesi Meets with Irondequoit High School Students in the State Capitol**



Senator Alesi greets Eastridge High School Students following the Governor's State of the State Address

(Photo: Senate Photography)

I was delighted to meet with Eastridge High School students to hear of their rare and special experience of attending the State of the State live and in person. It is always refreshing to see young men and women interested in state government and the legislative process. As their representative in Albany, I remain committed to partnering with Governor Cuomo to ensure they receive the best education possible. With his delivery of the State of the State Address, Governor Cuomo has officially kicked off the 2012 Legislative Session and I am optimistic that we can build on our successes from last year's historic session, including the restoration of nearly \$230 million in school aid for students across the state. As the Governor indicated in his address, the students of our state need a strong advocate in Albany fighting for them and I will do everything in my ability to fight for Eastridge High School and all schools in my District.

Eastridge students are members of the high school's International Baccalaureate program and are taking a "History of the Americas" class. Besides attending the State of the State Address, the students also toured the State Capitol building.

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## **Interstate 390 Slated to Receive \$100 Million**

Governor Cuomo plans to announce \$100 million in state and federal funding to make improvements to Interstate 390 in Rochester. The funding for the new interchange on Interstate 390 at Kendrick Road is reported to include new access ramps, expanded lanes, ramp relocation and a new bridge. The Governor's pending announcement to redevelop Interstate 390 has long been viewed as one of the region's top infrastructure priorities.

As a member of the Higher Education Committee, I have always considered education a cornerstone to a healthy and vibrant community, both economically and intellectually. It is my hope that the improvements to I-390 will provide better access to the University of Rochester ([the region's largest employer](#)), nearby Monroe Community College and the Rochester Institute of Technology. By increasing capacity and reducing congestion, the project would also help to improve safety and accessibility to Strong Memorial Hospital and Monroe Community Hospital for emergency responders.

The Governor's office has estimated that the project would help add 29,000 new jobs to our local economy by accommodating the growth of the colleges, including nearly 1,300 new construction jobs.

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## **Senate Passes Iran Divestment Legislation**

The New York State Senate this week gave final legislative passage to the Iran Divestment Act of 2012 ([S.5917-A](#)), a bill that I Co-Sponsored. The legislation would prohibit companies that provide goods, services or credit worth \$20 million or more to Iran's energy industry from entering into or renewing state and local government contracts.

A 2010 federal law authorized state and local governments to divest from companies whose interests in Iran's energy sector directly or indirectly support its pursuit of nuclear weapons. The divestment would apply to companies engaged in oil or natural gas development in Iran, as well as any company found to be directly involved in nuclear power.

The Iran Divestment legislation directs the Office of General Services to create a list of people, corporations and other organizations with investments of more than \$20 million in the Iranian energy sector. Those on the list would be excluded from bidding on government contracts.

The bill also requires individuals or entities to certify they are not on the list when they submit bids to state and local agencies. Individuals or companies on the list that are the sole source of certain commodities or services can renew or enter into contracts on a case-by-case basis.

The bill, which has broad bipartisan support in both the Senate and Assembly, will be sent to the Governor for his consideration.

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