



## SENATOR JIM ALESI



**Community Update: 02/08/12**



Dear Neighbor,

The [American Red Cross](#) needs to collect 22,000 units of blood each weekday and around 15,000 units each weekend to meet patient needs. In fact, someone needs blood every two seconds, every day, 365 days a year.

Over the weekend, I was honored to attend the [American Heart Association](#) 2012 Rochester Heart Ball to help raise awareness about heart disease. The month of February, American Heart Month, is a great time to help build the national blood supply through a blood donation.

For a list of upcoming blood drives, or for a donation facility near you, please visit the Red Cross [website](#). Simply type in your zip code on the right-hand side and it will give you locations in your area. Your blood donation could potentially save someone's life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim".

## Earth Day is April 22, 2012



To celebrate and honor Earth Day this year, I am sponsoring a poster contest for children in grades K-6. The theme of my Earth Day celebration is “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.” This year’s poster contest encourages youngsters to take an interest in their environment and be creative in the process. Participation in this challenge is also a fun opportunity for children to learn about ways they can have an impact on making New York a cleaner, more livable state.

Posters should be no larger than 11” X 17”. Entries should be photographed and submitted electronically, preferably in jpeg format via [www.nysenate.gov/earthday2012](http://www.nysenate.gov/earthday2012). All submissions must be uploaded to the website by March 9, 2012 and will be displayed on my [website](#) with the winning poster being featured. Participants will also receive a certificate acknowledging their participation. I look forward to seeing the creative entries from our young people as they use their creativity to address the pressing issues of a cleaner environment.

Since the first Earth Day was celebrated in 1970, over 20 million Americans have participated, helping to improve the quality of air we breathe and the water we drink. In addition, landmark legislation has been passed to help support this effort, such as the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act.

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### Senate Passes School Bus Safety Bills

On Monday, I joined my colleagues in the Senate to pass legislation ([S.3099A](#)) to increase the penalties for passing a stopped school bus. This bill would impose a sixty day suspension of a driver’s license if convicted of passing a stopped school bus two or more times. This amendment to current law would make the penalties for passing a stopped school bus multiple times the same as penalties for drivers convicted of speeding in a construction zone two or more times.

Yesterday, the Senate passed a bill ([S.6157A](#)) that would ban certain criminal offenders from

working on school buses. The bill prohibits people who are convicted of offenses, such as sex and drug crimes, from being school bus monitors. S.6157A also bans anyone convicted under [Leandra's Law](#) from being a school bus driver for five years after conviction. Leandra's Law makes it a felony to drive drunk with children in the car who are under 16 years old.

In passing these bills, my main objective was to ensure the safety of students riding the school bus. Our children are our most precious resource and it is our responsibility to protect them.

Both bills have been sent to the Assembly.

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