



## SENATOR JIM ALESI



**Community Update: 04/11/12**

### **Honeoye Falls-Mendon Volunteer Ambulance Annual Banquet**



I recently had the pleasure of attending the Honeoye Falls-Mendon Ambulance's annual Appreciation Banquet on Saturday, March 31st. Earlier in March, I also visited with members of the Honeoye Falls Fire Department, at their [annual banquet](#). Having been raised in a family that served with volunteer fire and ambulance companies, I recognize the dedication of volunteer fire and ambulance personnel in saving lives and protecting the public.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of fire companies and emergency service corps throughout the state. Our first responders have one of the toughest jobs - often responding to unknown and dangerous situations, putting their lives on the line to save ours. I am reminded of the constant need to create and maintain a safe working environment for current volunteer personnel, and a more welcoming environment to recruit young volunteers.

I currently have legislation pending in the Senate that would extend the law protecting emergency department personnel from assault to include doctors, nurses, technicians and related medical personnel working directly in a hospital emergency department. Also I was the original author of legislation that created a scholarship program to increase the recruitment and retention of volunteers. It is imperative that our volunteer corps and their members are safe and protected while performing such selfless acts.



## 2012-13 Budget Update: EPIC Funding Restored



Senator Jim Alesi with Majority Leader Dean Skelos discussing the restoration of EPIC funds in this year's budget.

Dear Neighbor,

By working with Governor Cuomo, I am pleased to report that the 2012-13 New York State Budget restores \$30.6 million to the New York State EPIC Program beginning in January 2013. Under the new plan, prescriptions will continue to be paid by Medicare Part D, but EPIC will pay the Medicare Part D co-payment, which will range from \$3 to no more than \$20.

This funding is crucial to helping our seniors on fixed incomes afford their prescription medication. Previous changes to the EPIC program in recent years resulted in increased co-pays and caused significant hardships for our most vulnerable seniors. That is why I approached this year's budget negotiations determined to restore EPIC funding – to ensure that our seniors on fixed incomes have reliable and affordable prescription medication coverage.

If you are 65 or older, are nearing your 65<sup>th</sup> birthday, or have parents or family members 65 or older, you or your family members may be eligible for EPIC. For more information on eligibility requirements and coverage benefits, or for an application, please call the toll-free EPIC helpline at **1-800-332-3742** (TTY: 1-800-325-0778), or visit [health.ny.gov](http://health.ny.gov). As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

My website also includes updated information on the recently passed budget. Click [here](#) to read more about the EPIC restoration and other initiatives included in the budget.

Sincerely,

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



## **Senator Jim Alesi Announces Small Business Workshop to be Offered in Rochester**

The Greater Rochester Area will host a workshop in April to help small business owners start and grow their business in New York State. The Finger Lakes Region workshop will be held Tuesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, at the Hillside Family of Agencies Conference Center in Rochester.

As Chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Economic Development and Small Business, and a former small business owner myself, I understand how imperative it is that New York State assist small businesses in any way possible. Small businesses are the foundation of our communities and the key to Upstate New York's resurgence as they provide the bedrock for a healthy economy. These workshops will help those who are looking to start, develop and advance their small businesses.

As part of a statewide small business outreach initiative announced recently by Governor Cuomo, a team of state officials will travel to the Finger Lakes Region to conduct the April 24<sup>th</sup> workshop. At least six state agencies will be traveling around the state, including the departments of State, Labor, Taxation and Finance as well as Empire State Development, State Liquor Authority, and the Workers' Compensation Board. Each workshop will be held in conjunction with local chambers of commerce.

Some of the topics the seminars will cover include: starting a business and adhering to regulatory timelines; how to obtain and file tax forms; first steps for hiring employees; and how to become certified as an MWBE.

Additional information on the workshops is available via [www.NYOpenforSmallBusiness.com](http://www.NYOpenforSmallBusiness.com).

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