



SENATOR JIM ALESI



Community Update: 06/13/12

Senator Jim Alesi/Senate Pass Legislation to Fight Prescription Drug Abuse and Addiction



THE LANDMARK

I-STOP LAW

Saving Lives by Preventing
Prescription Drug Abuse

Includes Real-Time Prescription Drug Tracking To Eliminate “Doctor Shopping,” Improves Education and Awareness for Prescribers, Creates Safe Disposal Program

I joined members of the Senate Monday to pass legislation to establish the Internet System for Tracking Over-Prescribing (I-STOP) – an initiative targeted at combating prescription drug abuse and addiction. This important legislation, [S.7637](#), would require the Department of Health (DOH) to create and maintain a real-time, online reporting system to monitor the prescribing and dispensing of certain controlled substances. Health care practitioners and pharmacists would be required to report specific information to the database when certain controlled substances are prescribed and dispensed.

Increased occurrences of prescription drug abuses in New York State have emphasized the need to streamline communication among practitioners, pharmacists, and law enforcement. By providing health care practitioners and pharmacists with a centralized database, we can help to avoid over-prescribing and provide treatment to patients who abuse prescription drugs. Ultimately, this is a public safety issue, and it is vital to ensure the health and well-being of all New Yorkers.

According to the Office of National Drug Control Policy, prescription drug abuse is the second most prevalent illegal drug problem in the United States. Prescription painkillers are responsible for roughly 15,000 deaths a year in the United States and 475,000 emergency

room visits, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Please click [here](#) to view my full I-STOP release.

Senate Passes Domestic Violence Legislation



On Tuesday, I joined my Senate colleagues to pass legislation that will protect victims of domestic violence and establish stronger criminal penalties to punish individuals who commit acts of domestic violence. This legislation builds upon my efforts to have a positive impact on the lives of domestic violence victims and their families.

Highlights of the domestic violence legislation ([S.7638](#)), which is part of a three-way agreement with Governor Cuomo and the Assembly, include the following:

- Establishing a domestic violence fatality review team to examine factors involved in deaths related to domestic violence;
- Expanding factors for bail consideration including prior violations of orders of protection;
- Creating new felony-level crime of aggravated family offense where the defendant and victim are members of the same family or household;
- Elevating the crime of harassment from a violation to a Class A misdemeanor; and
- Prohibiting a person who was served with an order of protection or charged in the death of a decedent from controlling the disposition of the person's remains.

For more information please click [here](#).

Honoring Our Nation's Flag: Flag Day, Thursday, June 14th



Dear Neighbor,

Since Revolutionary Days, Americans have displayed our flag as an important way for those of us at home to express our support and prayers for the courageous men and women serving our country in battle and overseas. Thursday, June 14th marks the 235th anniversary of when the Continental Congress adopted a national flag designed by Betsy Ross of Philadelphia, for our troops at the request of George Washington.

Our American Flag has long exemplified the spirit of those who have lost their lives in battle, as well as those who have fought valiantly and survived. It stands for all our ancestors who worked, saved and sacrificed at home to raise their families in such a strong, free, and prosperous land. It stands for the freedom that so many other countries in the world are just now beginning to experience.

As we celebrate Flag Day this year, please keep in mind the remarkable courage of the men and women serving our country – it is this courage that allows those of us at home to continue living in freedom.

Sincerely,

HAPPY FATHERS DAY

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