



SENATOR JIM ALESİ



Community Update: 12/28/11

I want to remind you of some of the new laws that take effect January 1, 2012:



Tax Cuts:

The *Middle Class Tax Cut and Job Creation Plan* will take effect January 1, 2012. These recently enacted tax cuts ([S.50001](#), [S.50002](#)) will reduce tax rates on middle class-taxpayers to their lowest levels in more than 50 years. About 4.4 million middle-class taxpayers will receive a total of \$690 million in personal income tax relief – allowing them to save, spend and invest more of their hard-earned money.

A tax relief measure for manufacturers that will help them expand and create new jobs will also take effect next year, beginning January 1, 2012, as will provisions for flood relief and recovery, and the implementation of inflation adjustments to reduce personal income taxes. The plan is a complete dismantling of the tax increases seen in previous years and provides real tax cuts for hardworking, overburdened taxpayers – saving 99 percent of New Yorkers money. All taxpayers will see a tax reduction or no change compared to their previous tax bill.

Roadway Safety:

When drivers take to the roads on January 1, 2012, they will be required to exercise additional caution when approaching, overtaking or passing construction vehicles, tow trucks or other “hazard vehicles” stopped on the road with their lights flashing. Current law requires drivers to

move over to adjacent lanes when approaching or passing an emergency vehicle on the side of the road, but not for other hazard vehicles.

The new law, [S.2769B](#), provides an additional measure of safety for drivers and workers on the roadside who are performing such activities as helping a stranded or broken-down vehicle, snow removal or other types of roadway maintenance and construction.

Orally Administered Chemotherapy Coverage:

As of January 1, 2012, health insurance plans in New York State are required to cover orally administered chemotherapy treatments. The law, [S.3988B](#), corrects a discrepancy to ensure that chemotherapy treatment, no matter how administered, is covered by insurance companies. With some of the newest advances in cancer therapies available only in pill form, oral chemotherapy treatment allows patients to take a pill in the comfort of their homes. The new law requires oral treatment to be covered by insurance companies equal to that of more traditional intravenous or injectable forms of treatment.

These laws, which take effect on New Year's Day, reflect my ongoing effort to end gridlock and partisanship, and to make New York State government functioning again for hardworking, overburdened taxpayers. It is a good start, but there is much more work to be done. I look forward to working with Governor Cuomo and my Senate colleagues throughout the 2012 [Legislative Session](#) and continuing our efforts to move New York in a positive direction.



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