



SENATOR JIM ALESI

The Original Community Update: Week Ending 10/15/10



NATIONAL EMERGENCY NURSES WEEK: OCTOBER 10TH - 16TH

October 10th through 16th is National Emergency Nurses week. We recognize and appreciate the care and compassion emergency nurses provide on a daily basis. Nurses play a significant role in caring for patients across life spans and are called upon to provide care where their assistance is often life-saving.

Earlier this year, the Senate passed the Violence Against Nurses bill which makes assaulting a registered nurse (RN) or licensed practical nurse (LPN) a felony. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, about 500,000 nurses are victims of workplace violence every year, resulting in RNs and LPNs suffering from the highest proportion of workplace injuries in the healthcare field. Providing for a felony charge against those who assault an RN or LPN will encourage employers to address violence that might occur in the workplace. This bill is a positive step for the increased safety of all nurses.

ROCHESTER CHILDREN'S THEATRE PRESENTS "SWEET HOUSE"

Earlier this week I attended a press conference hosted by Nazareth College Arts Center unveiling Rochester Children's Theatre's newest musical "Sweet House". The musical, based on the story of Hansel and Gretel, promotes children making healthy choices and helping to fight childhood obesity.

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Domestic violence remains a public health crisis here in my Senate District and across the country. During October, National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we recognize the significant progress made in combating domestic violence, and we recommit to making everyone's home a safe environment. Since first elected to the State Senate, I have been a strong advocate for local organizations dedicated to assisting and protecting victims of domestic violence.

Earlier this year the New York State Senate voted to expel Senator Hiram Monserrate after he was convicted of domestic violence. As a former Chairman of the Senate Ethics Committee, I was asked to serve as a member of the Special Committee on Ethics established by the Senate to investigate the matter.

Senator Monserrate's egregious misconduct and arrest for assaulting his girlfriend warranted serious sanctions. Perpetrators of domestic violence must be held accountable which is why I voted for expulsion. I have long been involved with anti-violence groups and organizations and have zero tolerance for domestic violence. This month please keep in mind those who continue to be affected by domestic violence and help break the silence of domestic violence.

If you or a loved one is a victim of domestic violence, please contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE. Help is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Every month – not just October – demands a commitment to end domestic violence.

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