



SENATOR JIM ALESI

Community Update: Week Ending 6/25/10



SUMMER TIME IS BIKE TIME!

With the official start of Summer this week, more bikers are bound to be outside enjoying the weather. Sharing the road with cyclists and observing the rules of the road is everyone's job. Keep in mind that when riding a bicycle, basic traffic laws that apply to a motorist also apply to a cyclist. That includes stopping at red lights, stop signs or before entering roadways. Cyclists should remember the following:

- Although all cyclists should wear a helmet, children under the age of 14 are required to wear a helmet;
- If you bike with an iPod or other music-playing device, remember that it is unsafe, and illegal, to wear more than one earphone while biking;
- Ride single file and use bicycle paths when provided; and
- Turn on your headlight for safety, or wear reflective clothing when riding at night.

Bicycling in our area has become popular in our parks, along the canal, and in our neighborhoods. The best defense against accidents is safe and skilled handling of the bicycle. If we all do our part to stay alert on the road, we can minimize accidents and maximize enjoyment for all cyclists this summer. Happy riding!

ANTI-BULLYING LEGISLATION PASSES SENATE

On Tuesday, legislation to curb incidents of harassment and discrimination in public schools, passed the Senate with overwhelming support. The "Dignity for all Students Act" (Senate bill 1987-B) will protect various classifications of students from ridicule based on actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender or sex.

Bullies look for vulnerability. Bullies do not pick on the biggest or the toughest or the most popular people, rather they look for the weaknesses in others. Bullies target people, and the above classifications present targets that subject too many of our kids to unwarranted and unjustified discrimination and harassment in our schools.

EMPIRE ZONE PROGRAM ELIMINATED AT THE EXPENSE OF NEW YORK BUSINESSES



Earlier this week, I strongly opposed legislation that will cause irrevocable long-term damage to New York's small businesses and our Upstate economy.

Senate Budget bill 6605-B, will, among other things, eliminate the Empire Zone Program, which was created years ago to stimulate economic growth through a variety of tax incentives designed to attract new businesses to New York State, and to enable existing businesses to expand and create more jobs.

Cutting back on efforts to create jobs is simply shortsighted. In reference to the Excelsior Program, the Business Council of New York State called it an "inadequate replacement" for the Empire Zone Program, that "will limit New York's ability to compete in the race to create and retain jobs as the nation moves out of the recession."

As Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Economic Development and Small Business, I find it unconscionable that any Senator would support budget legislation this year to gut our state's job-creation program, force more taxes on our small businesses slash economic investment, and make our state less competitive with neighboring states when trying to lure new businesses. And all this is on top of actions taken in last year's budget legislation that raised taxes on businesses by billions of billions dollars, including increases in utility taxes, income taxes, payroll taxes, health insurance taxes, and countless other taxes.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2010!

220 PACKETT'S LANDING | FAIRPORT, NY 14450 | (585) 223-1800

ALESI@SENATE.STATE.NY.US | WWW.ALESI.NYSENATE.GOV