Assemblyman Felix W. Ortiz named Assistant Speaker

Elected in 1994, Assembly Member Ortiz has distinguished himself as a strong leader in the Assembly achieving passage of groundbreaking legislation and pushing progressive public policies. Ortiz is recognized for his ability to build consensus with legislators on both sides of the aisle. He is a well regarded his advocacy on behalf of children, families, immigrants, education, housing and health care. His work with First Lady Michelle Obama on childhood obesity prevention measures resulted in his initiatives being included in President Obama’s National Affordable Care Act. A U.S. Army veteran, Ortiz has a deep commitment to his Brooklyn constituency, operating a full time community service office and holding regular community meetings, health fairs and children’s programs.

Ortiz was the founding force behind the creation of the Assembly Subcommittee on Sweatshops and its first chair He formerly served as Chair of Committees on Cities, Veterans Affairs, Mental Health, Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Food, Farm and Nutrition Task Force and the Legislature’s Puerto Rican and Hispanic Task Force. Ortiz is a member of the Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian Caucus and the NYS Caucus of Environmental Legislators. Additionally, Ortiz serves on the Executive Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) and its Labor Caucus, the Council of State Governments, and as Vice-Chair of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA). He is the former chair and co-founder of the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators (NHCSL). Ortiz earned his Master’s Degree in Public Policy from New York University (NYU). (from press release 2/6/15)

Dietary Supplements Under Investigation

This week, Attorney General Eric Schneiderman made national news in calling for an investigation into the industry of dietary food supplements. I am glad that he has joined my struggle to bring awareness to a consumer frauds and safety issue. I have a bill to create a dietary food supplements safety committee to address the consumer fraud occurring with manufacturers of some store-brand herbal supplements. Better standards and enforcement over these supplements is important so consumers can be confident knowing that they are getting what the label states. I will continue to work with Senator Kenneth LaValle to send this bill to the Governor for approval. (A3548/S2487).