



New York State Assembly Weekly Report From Assistant Speaker Felix W. Ortiz



04/27/2015



Ortiz helped lead the effort to pass legislation eliminating obstacles to pay equity for women and minorities throughout New York State. The Assembly has long supported fair pay for women. This action brings us one step closer to achieving this goal.

The New York State Fair Pay Act would prohibit the payment of differential wages between employees on the basis of gender, race or national origin.



Nurses are being forced to take too many patients at once. Ortiz met with nurses from the Maimonides Medical Center to discuss the Safe Staffing for Quality Care Act (A1548) that would set nurse-to-patient ratios in New York healthcare facilities. Safe staffing is an important component of a good health care system. It can help save lives.



A package of bills was taken up by the Assembly on Earth Day and included legislation to further regulate toxic chemicals in children's products (A5612), reduce mercury in certain lamps (A5844), prohibit the sale of personal cosmetic products containing micro beads (A5896), create a permanent environmental justice advisory group (A3063), and improve global warming pollution controls (A6072). In addition to these proposals, the State Legislature also renewed the state's Superfund and Brownfields program for another ten years with a \$100 million appropriation in the final budget approved earlier this month, paving the way for future clean ups at contaminated sites across the state.



Last week, the Lobby Day for the Child Victims Act (A 2872) was held in Albany. New York must reform its outdated laws regarding the statute of limitations for child sexual abuse crimes. Ortiz joined colleagues seeking to eliminate obstacles for prosecuting these crimes.



Ortiz introduced legislation asking the U.S. Congress to call a constitutional convention to address campaign finance abuses in light of recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions weakening regulation over corporate donors.

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