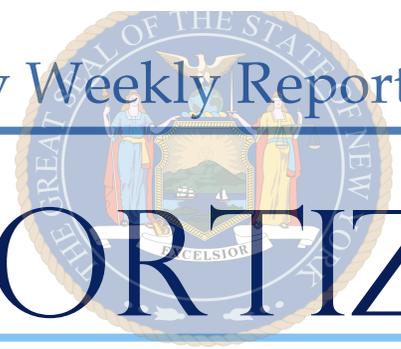




New York State Assembly Weekly Report

From Assistant Speaker

FELIX W. ORTIZ



SEPTEMBER 19, 2016

STATEMENT FROM ASSISTANT SPEAKER FELIX ORTIZ

The Governor recently approved my legislation (S.5313-A/A.4990-B) authorizing 16 and 17 years olds to authorize organ donations upon their death. The legislation includes appropriate safeguards that enable parents or legal guardians to rescind the decision if the minor dies before age 18.

Current law provides that the minimum age to make an anatomical gift in New York State is 18. Previously, New Yorkers applying for a learner's permit at age 16 or 17 cannot register for the New York State Donate Life Registry. By allowing 16 and 17 year olds to register, New York is opening up the registry to an entirely new population, which will subsequently increase donation rates.

Many young adults would like to be able to become an organ and tissue donor. This law will allow New Yorkers 16 years and older to enroll in New York's Donate Life Registry. Parents will, of course, still be able to provide final authorization.

New York is in the midst of a public health crisis where the need for organs for transplant far exceeds the supply. The state can now reach out to more people and do a better job to promote organ donation. One single organ donor can save the lives of 8 people. I am pleased that this is now state law.

Honoring Anna Schillhaneck, the Deputy Speaker of the Berlin House of Representatives. She was in New York City to pay tribute to the victims of the World Trade Center 9/11 tragedy. I thanked her for her work raising educational support funds for families of 9/11 victims.



Thank you for visiting the Sunset Park Health Fair: empowering the community.



I visited Red Hook's 22nd Annual National Night Out Against Crime at the 72nd, 66th, and 78th Precincts. Each command is special. Let's support our local commands.



Contact Information

DISTRICT OFFICE
5004 4TH AVENUE
BROOKLYN, NY 11220
718-492-6334

ALBANY OFFICE
ROOM 731
ALBANY, NY 12248
518-455-3821

ortizf@assembly.state.ny.us



FelixWOrtiz



@felixwortiz

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