



Assistant Speaker

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Working for Our Community in Albany and Brooklyn
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If you have a comment or suggestion regarding the upcoming year and the 2018 session, please send an email, "like" the Facebook page and follow me on Twitter.

“The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.”

Coretta Scott King

Banning Bump Stocks

We have seen the devastating impact of these devices and too many deaths in mass shootings. The possession of machine guns by civilians has been prohibited in the United States for close to a century. There is no legitimate reason for any person to possess the functional equivalent of a machine gun. My legislation, banning the rapid firearm attachment known as bump stocks, is moving through the Assembly and Senate. Bump stocks attach to semi-automatic rifles and accelerate their firing rate, simulating an automatic firearm.

School Nutrition Programs

As a longtime advocate for healthy living and eating, I welcome the Governor’s announcement of a five-point program to make sure no New York student from kindergarten through college goes hungry. The proposal would help more New York school children get a healthy start to the school day by bringing breakfast into classrooms across the state.

I am especially pleased that the Governor will expand on the farm to school legislation I’ve sponsored. This initiative will double the state’s investment in the Farm to School program to use healthy, local, New York foods in school districts across the state to help schools provide students with nutritious meals from food produced by local farms.

In addition to the Governor’s initiatives, I have introduced legislation addressing trans-fats, proper food labeling, and prohibiting the sale and delivery of certain caffeinated or stimulant-enhanced alcoholic beverages to individuals under 21. Lack of healthy, nutritious food can impair a child’s ability to concentrate and perform well in school. It is also often linked to higher levels of behavioral and emotional problems for children in preschool through adolescence.

Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is a serious issue. I’ve introduced legislation (A3169) that promotes the education of the human trafficking information and referral hotline to assist persons in freeing themselves from acts of sex trafficking.



I am disappointed to learn that tobacco use remains the number one cause of preventable death in the United States, killing over 480,000 annually. In New York City, 12,000 residents die from a smoking-related illness every year.

Thankfully, NYC Smoke-Free’s advocacy efforts serve to foster environments that support the prevention and reduction of tobacco use through the development and reinforcement of tobacco-free norms in communities throughout New York City.