



NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY WEEKLY REPORT

Assistant Speaker

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Working for Our Community in Albany and Brooklyn

Freedom Edition

July is a month where we celebrate the adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776, declaring our nation independent of Great Britain. This special Freedom Edition will highlight the accomplishments and current legislation that reflects how our great nation is constantly on the move, changing and forging ahead. We have a democracy that works, for good, and sometimes worth challenging.

As a US Army veteran, I am proud of my service and proud of my family members and friends who also served. Please join with me and honor all servicemen and servicewomen--and veterans--who dedicated their lives to defending this nation against all enemies. God Bless the United States.

ORTIZ PUSHES FOR CONGRESS TO ABOLISH IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT (ICE)

I have introduced a resolution in the State Assembly urging Congress to abolish the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE). ICE's mission is to enforce our laws. Instead, it has turned into a force used to raid communities, detain hard working people and to separate families. This must stop; it is time for a better and more responsible agency.

Congress must abolish ICE and create an agency designed to protect our borders, ending ICE's ability to conduct horrifying raids in our towns and cities. We need an immigration agency that works within the law and that recognizes that all people are created equal, deserve respect and must be treated with honor.

Demanding an end to the immoral and depraved practice of separating families, I rallied with New Yorkers to show this administration that we care about immigrant families and that we will not let Washington run rampant over our laws and due process.



IMMIGRANT FAMILIES ARE FINALLY RELEASED

The current administration's decision to release immigrant families is a necessary move to fix a draconian problem of the administration's own making. Under court pressure, the administration was forced to admit their wrongdoing.



The family separation policy tore children from their parents and has left a dark mark on this nation. We rose up against cruel policies and the courts did their job well. In Washington, my colleagues and I condemned the senseless, cruel and unprecedented actions of the administration in tearing families apart. In addition, Members of the New York State Senate and Assembly released an open letter demanding the end of the inhumane policy.

Locally, I participated in the stroller march in Sunset Park, where we called for the reunion of parents and children who were separated at the border. I was proud to participate in the event and march against this zero tolerance policy

Our victory is for families and the rule of law. The hard work of reunification must be done. We will never forget the children and we will never forget the values that strengthen this great nation.

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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 on Twitter.