



- Combating the Opioid Epidemic
- Expanding Mental Health Services
- Fighting for Access to Broadband
- Widening Route 17
- Woodstock 50th Anniversary Approaches
- Protecting Living Organ Donors



# Assemblywoman Aileen M. Gunther

Fall 2018

## FALL UPDATE

Dear Friend,

I'm happy to report that this year's legislative session was a productive one. With your help, we had 22 bills pass both houses of the Legislature that range from renaming local highways to establishing a drug take-back program at pharmacies across the entire state.

In this newsletter, you'll find information about the legislation we passed this year, as well as an overview of what was included in the New York State Budget and some information about programs you might find useful.

As always, you should feel free to stop by my office in Monticello or Middletown any time, or give us a call if you are ever in need of assistance.

Sincerely,

*Aileen Gunther*  
Aileen Gunther  
Member of Assembly



Speaking on the floor of the Assembly in support of my bill establishing a statewide drug take-back program

### Combating the Opioid Epidemic

On July 10th, the governor signed one of this year's most important bills into law: A9576-B, the Drug Take Back Act. That means you will soon be able to dispose of any unused medications in a safe, environmentally-friendly way in any chain pharmacy across New York State.

Pharmacies will soon be required to provide either a box where you can drop off unused medications or an envelope that you can use to mail back the medication to a disposal facility. This service will be free of charge to the consumer and will be paid for entirely by the pharmaceutical companies.

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## FALL UPDATE (cont'd)

### Woodstock 50th Anniversary Approaches

In honor of the upcoming 50th anniversary of the Woodstock Music and Art Fair, I passed legislation designating Route 17B as The Woodstock Way.

Woodstock drew hundreds of thousands of people to our area to enjoy peace and music, and that experience defined an entire generation. We should do everything we can to help celebrate and highlight that legacy.

Sullivan County is quickly becoming a tourist destination again, and the 50th Anniversary of Woodstock will help draw even more people from all over the world.



*Spending the afternoon at the Kauneonga Lake Block Party and looking forward to the 50th anniversary of Woodstock*



*At the Grand Opening for the Yo1 Luxury Nature Cure outside of Monticello*

### Protecting Living Organ Donors

New York State has one of the lowest organ donation rates in the entire country. Each year, nearly 500 New Yorkers die waiting for a transplant. The Living Donor Protection Act (A297-C) would prohibit insurance companies from discriminating against people who choose to give the gift of life. It also adds preparation and recovery time to the list of conditions that are covered under paid family leave and includes an education component to teach people about becoming organ donors. This legislation was recently signed into law by the Governor.

For more information on how to become an organ donor, please visit: <https://donatelife.ny.gov>

*Celebrating the  
4th of July in  
Liberty*



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Assemblywoman  
**Aileen M.  
Gunther**

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*At my Middletown  
District Office to  
discuss the future of  
the Orange County  
ACT Team*