

ASSEMBLYMEMBER MARIANNE BUTTENSCHON

NYS Assembly | 119th Assembly District

Dear Neighbor:

Throughout 2020 our communities have faced unprecedented challenges as the COVID-19 pandemic ravaged our world and disrupted our lives. As we begin 2021 and as the Legislature enters its 2021-2022 Legislative Session, I will remain committed to supporting our communities, sticking up for our students and protecting the livelihoods of Mohawk Valley workers and small businesses.

As a lifelong resident of the Mohawk Valley, I've worked hard to represent the area in the New York State Assembly. Over the course of the pandemic, my office has remained open, serving countless constituents as they struggled to secure their unemployment, advocated for loved ones in nursing homes, fought for the welfare of their business and the health of their families. I have searched for ways to answer your concerns, fought for solutions to new and ongoing problems and brought home results – because our families deserve the best.

Now, as I begin my second term, I look forward to facing these concerns with hope and optimism as we work to combat the pandemic and bring our communities back together. In return, I ask that everyone look out for each other so that we may overcome our challenges and build a brighter future together.

For anyone in need of assistance, I am here to serve you. Please reach out to my office by calling (315) 732-1055 or emailing ButtenschonM@nyassembly.gov.

Best Regards,

Marianne Buttenschon



Flooding

Mohawk Valley residents know the dangers and costs of widespread and increasingly frequent floods all too well. Families who own homes on a flood plain often struggle to sell their houses, even at a reduced price, or bear the burden of repeated renovation and repair projects. Over the last two years I've fought to ensure our communities receive the funding we needed to recover from extreme weather events.

The denial of funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was detrimental to our Halloween 2019 flood victims. Yet, as the world attempted to deem their property and loss as insignificant, I worked with state and federal legislators and reminded these victims that we have not forgotten them, nor had we stopped the fight.

In 2020, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) granted a buy-out program that flood victims had been desperately waiting on.

I worked hand in hand with the Village of Whitesboro to ensure that every resident had the opportunity to fill out an application. As days grew closer to the deadline, I went door to door delivering applications and information and helped numerous constituents obtain the documentation and notarization they needed to complete their forms.

Legislation

During my first two years in office, I introduced 58 pieces of legislation and supported hundreds of bills to protect our veterans, improve our business climate, reduce government regulations and undue paperwork, strengthen public safety, support law enforcement officers and first responders, and to deal with the impacts of COVID-19.

I sponsored several pieces of legislation to help our communities navigate through the pandemic in the 2019-20 Legislative Session that I have re-introduced in the 2021-22 Legislative Session. These include: a bill to offer temporary early retirement incentives for some public employees to prevent layoffs and save taxpayers money (A.10897 of 2019-20) and legislation that will criminalize catalytic converter thefts and will require recyclers and vehicle dismantlers to document catalytic converter sales similar to documentation requirements for pawn shops (A.11160 of 2019-20).

In order to support businesses, in 2020, the Legislature has acted on legislation which would require Empire State Development to coordinate with all state agencies and state authorities to create a clearinghouse on its website where small businesses can easily find information on state programs (Chap. 339 of 2020). Additionally, legislation that I introduced with State Senator Rachel May (A.7104/S.3873) which would allow BOCES to establish and encourage young farmer apprentice programs to recruit farmers and protect our agriculture industry and food supply was passed in both the Assembly and Senate this July.

I will continue to advocate for any and all legislation which will protect public safety, support our community members, and build up small businesses and the Mohawk Valley's economy.

A.998 of 2021

To require the use of an antimicrobial copper alloy that is recognized by the US environmental Protection Agency for touch surfaces in new, publicly funded construction projects in order to reduce the presence of disease-causing bacteria, viruses, and yeasts on commonly used touch surfaces and therefore protect public health.

A.1027 of 2021

In *United States v. Salerno* (1987), the United States Supreme Court upheld preventive detention under the Eighth Amendment to the Constitution, where a defendant has been charged with a serious crime and may pose a danger to the community or an individual within it. Judges should be allowed to consider the risk a person poses in determining whether that person should be detained pending trial. That is sensible in order to protect victims of crimes, and our communities and individuals within them.

A.1172 of 2021

This bill subjects the Governor's actions during a state disaster emergency declaration to Legislative review every 30 days. This does not prevent the Governor from doing what they feel is necessary to keep the people of New York safe, but it does prevent them from circumventing the Legislature, as well as allows the people of the State of New York, through their legislative representatives, to have more of a say in how the state reconciles with a disaster affecting the State.

A.1235 of 2021

Despite an Executive Order allowing restaurants and bars to sell alcohol with takeout orders during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Governor's closure of these establishments prevented them from operating under the terms which were established between them and the State when they paid for their liquor license. This bill directs the SLA to give eligible bars and restaurants a credit on liquor license renewals in proportion to the amount of time for which they were shut down due to the pandemic.

Education



COVID-19 has placed a heavy strain on students, teachers, families, administrators and our education system. As a former educator, student success is one of my top priorities. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, I have remained in constant contact with those who could provide guidance on all that is occurring. I have regularly heard from and remained in contact with parents and students, teachers and administrators, the State Education Department (SED) and the Board of Regents, as well the Assembly and Senate Education Chairs, to ensure that I remain up-to-date on what is happening in our education system.

Over the past year, I have:

- Requested information and overviews on how districts should prepare to address the health and needs of children, teachers and staff within the schools throughout this crisis;
- Participated in Public Hearings hosted by the Assembly and Senate Education and Higher Education Committees to discuss the impact of the pandemic on schools, faculty and students;
- Reached out to the State Education Department (SED) and urged them to allow school districts to receive transportation aid for expenses incurred during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure these additional operating costs did not further set back our already struggling school districts; and
- Created a virtual field trip of the New York State Capitol, hosted a bill challenge and offered several essay and reading incentives to help students remain engaged in civics.

Agriculture and Farms



During these unprecedented times, it was critical that we examined how the state was supporting our farmers. In order to access those needs I met with several farmers and sat with stakeholders to obtain firsthand knowledge about the challenges they were facing.

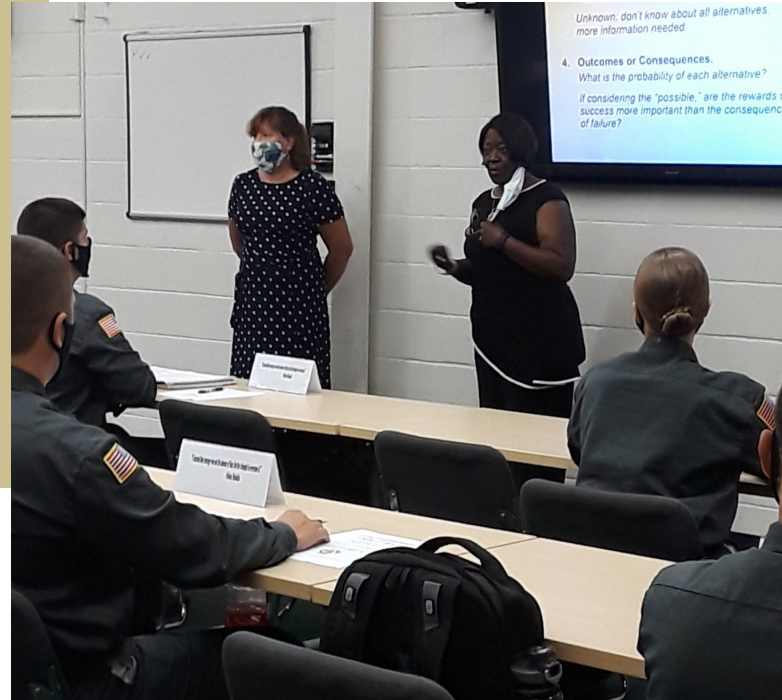
As we examined the impact the pandemic caused on our farming businesses, I fought to get Mohawk Valley farmers the resources and assistance they need to thrive through this crisis.

- I created a Resource Directory for Farmers – which can be found at www.nyassembly.gov/buttenschon.
- I pushed to authorize legislation that would increase Farm Workforce Retention Credit
- Advocated for the Marketing and Export Take–New York (MEET-NY) program to assist and encourage businesses, industrial firms and industry groups to engage in export trade regionally and globally (A.1159).
- My bill, which I created to allow Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) to establish young farmer apprenticeship programs, was signed into law (Ch. 298 of 2020).

**INFORMATION AND RESOURCES
FOR FARMERS**

In a time of anger and uncertainty against our law enforcement, I had the pleasure of having Majority Leader Crystal Peoples-Stokes come to the area to learn more about our Academy at MVCC and speak with some of our community's law enforcement officials and recruits.

The Mohawk Valley is home to countless, remarkable law enforcement officers who show up and ensure our families safety. Touring the Police Academy provided a platform for us to reconfirm the important role law enforcement provides, while providing insight into their training process and the myriad of subjects our officers undergo to better serve our community.



I participated in several food drives to ensure families received the help they deserved as hundreds of residents worried about their employment.

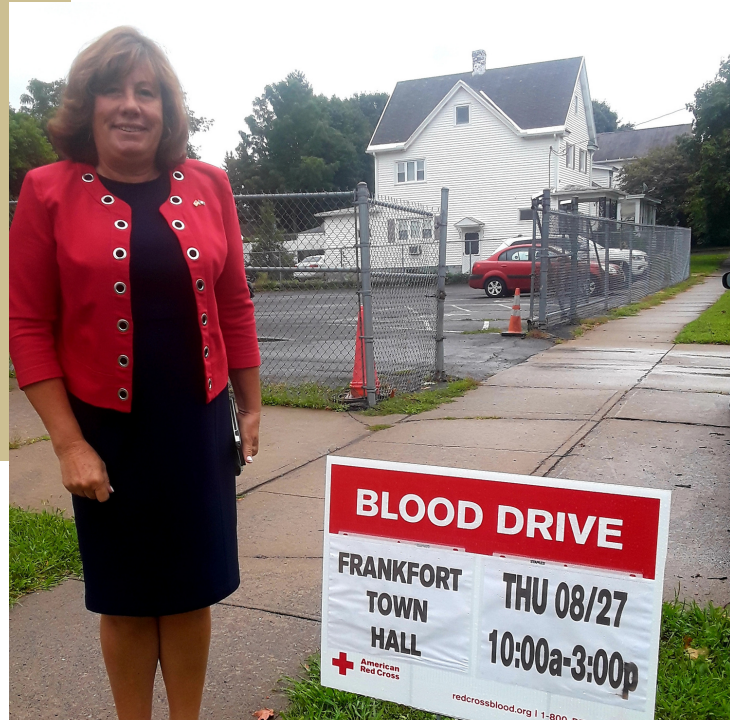
I worked with my fellow legislators in the Mohawk Valley Nine to pull out all the stops to make sure we keep the home of Remington Arms in Ilion. I marched beside the countless workers who were unjustly laid off without pay.

I delivered PPE to community centers as they prepared to open.

I reached out to our elderly community members and created a Words of Wisdom series in hopes of providing people with a sense of hope <https://nyassembly.gov/mem/Marianne-Buttenschon/story/92152>

I partnered with local fire department representatives to host Stop the Bleed courses, which aimed to train bystanders how to help in a bleeding emergency before first responders arrive at the scene.

When the demand for blood increased to historic levels, I partnered with the Red Cross and held blood drives across the Mohawk Valley to bring our blood banks back to pre-pandemic levels.



During the holidays, I partnered with CNY Veteran's Outreach Center to make certain our veterans received a complete holiday meal.

In lieu of cookouts and parties, I created a virtual tour of the many veteran monuments in the Mohawk Valley for everyone to watch to express our gratitude for our heroes over Memorial Day. <https://nyassembly.gov/mem/Marianne-Buttenschon>

I also helped plant several flags along the Memorial Parkway during this year's Flags for all Heroes 2020.

As the pandemic continues to put a significant and devastating strain on the financial well-being of New Yorkers, I remind you that my office is here to help guide you through any help you may need. Please feel free to reach out to me and my staff as we're here to help serve you. Stay Safe!

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