



SENATOR JIM ALESI

Community Update: Week Ending 4/23/10



UPSTATE ROADS AND BRIDGES TO RECEIVE FUNDING

After repeated requests by Senate Republicans that emergency funds be appropriated to regional and local construction projects, to maintain our roads and bridges and to keep men and women working, the Governor finally has taken action. The Governor has agreed to release funds for approximately 20% of all projects put on hold.

While I would prefer to have a budget proposal that includes a substantial increase in aid for Upstate roads and bridges, the current fiscal challenges facing New York State, exasperated by the fact that our state's political leadership resides in New York City, forces representatives and residents in Upstate communities to fight for every dollar available for roads and bridges. I am hopeful that the emergency funds will include more than \$13.5 million for vital, shovel-ready projects in the City of Rochester, and the towns of Henrietta, Irondequoit, Mendon, Penfield, Perinton, Pittsford, and Rush. As budget negotiations continue, I will do what I can to ensure that taxpayers in Upstate New York receive their fair share of state funding.

SAFE-PLAYGROUND LEGISLATION TURNS EIGHT

April brings awareness to many significant environmental and educational causes, from Keep America Beautiful Month to National Youth Sports Safety Month to Physical Wellness Month. But a lesser known week of recognition begins Saturday, April 25th – National Playground Safety Week.

Eight years ago, I was the author of legislation that was signed into law that prohibited the use of chromated copper arsenate (CCA) from pressure-treated lumber that had been commonly used for playground equipment. Prior to my legislation, CCA was used to treat at least 90% of pressure-treated wood, contaminating playground equipment with chrome and arsenic, two known human carcinogens. Like lead or cadmium in children's jewelry, chrome and arsenic in playground equipment posed a serious threat to children, especially since children were more susceptible to the quantities of chrome and arsenic used, and the hands-on relationship between children and playground equipment.

With more and more children being active outdoors and in our parks, I am forever grateful that my colleagues in the Legislature joined me to pass safe-playground legislation.

RECOGNIZING CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK: APRIL 18th - APRIL 24th

During my tenure in the Legislature, I have committed myself to protecting the rights of the millions of men and women that have been victims of crimes. Too often, these individuals experience unfairness, indignities, and disrespect in our courts and in our communities. As a staunch advocate for protective rights of crime victims, last year I was chosen by Senate leadership to serve on the Select Committee to review Senator Hiram Monserrate's misconduct and charges of domestic violence that, ultimately, led to Senator Monserrate's expulsion from the Senate.

While Senator Monserrate's actions, and the effect of those actions on his girlfriend, received much media attention, there are countless men and women victimized each day. As we recognize National Crime Victims' Rights Week this week, one group of individuals subjected to crimes of physical and emotional abuse that should – and must – receive greater protections are our registered nurses (RNs) and licensed practical nurses (LPNs).

I have been a proud supporter of legislation that would include RNs and LPNs in the same protected class of workers, safeguarded like our peace officers, police officers and firefighters. I encourage the Assembly to pass similar legislation. We must keep all crime victims in our hearts and minds, and do all we can to raise awareness for their physical and emotional pain.

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