



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

James L. Seward

## Senator Seward Receives Key Committee Assignments

JAMES L. SEWARD January 11, 2011

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ALBANY, 01/11/11 – State Senator James L. Seward (R/C/I–Oneonta) is set to fight for vital insurance, health, education and budget needs in the new senate session after receiving committee assignments.

### SENATOR SEWARD 2011 – 2012 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Insurance – chair,

Agriculture, Education, Finance, Health, Higher Education, Mental Health, Rules

Seward was named chairman of the senate insurance committee, a post he previously held from 1999 through 2008. **“Finding quality, affordable health insurance is a constant struggle for families and businesses. As chairman of the senate insurance committee, I will help guide state policy and ensure more people have proper coverage,”** Seward said. **“Fighting fraud that drives up insurance costs for everyone, including the state, will also be a priority.”**

Seward was also named to the senate standing committees on health and mental health. **“Often times health and insurance issues go hand in hand,”** Seward added. **“How we deliver and pay for health care has been a major national debate for some time now, and I am eager to play a vital role in crafting state legislation on these issues that touch all lives.”**

Seward will also serve on the senate standing committees on education and higher education. **“As we deal with the state’s economic issues, our local school districts, SUNY schools, and community colleges will be a focal point,”** Seward said. **“Educating our young people while tapping into new, innovative ways to involve our school campuses in the state’s economy are key goals moving forward.”**

Seward continues his service on the agriculture committee, another area of extreme importance across upstate New York. **“Farmers face unique challenges and I am proud to represent so many of them and other agriculture related businesses in the 51st district,”** Seward added.

Other committee assignments include finance and rules. The finance committee guides development of the state budget, and the rules committee reviews legislation bound for a vote on the senate floor at the close of the session.