



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Marc Panepinto

## Senator Panepinto's Bill Combatting Gang Related Activities Upon Religious Property Passes Senate

MARC PANEPINTO March 9, 2015

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**ALBANY, N.Y.** – Senator Marc Panepinto has released the following statement on the passage of his cosponsored bill, S.849:

“It’s deeply concerning that even in the year 2015 the vandalizing of religious property is as pervasive as ever. This bill not only increases penalties on these hateful crimes but introduces an educational component to them as well. By requiring the offenders to

complete a diversity training program and to remove the graffiti from the property they damaged, we are taking the necessary steps in curbing future repeat offenses. Most importantly, this bill defends our religious freedoms by combatting these gang related and isolated crimes that are all too often used to instill hate and fear towards a particular religion or faith based community.

*S.849 is cosponsored by Senator Panepinto and passed the Senate on March 9, 2015.*