



SENATOR JIM ALESI



Community Update: 02/15/12

Senate Passes Bills to Curb Illegal Prescription Drug Abuse

Overdose deaths from prescription pain killers have reached epidemic proportions in the United States. In fact, according to a recent report from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), more people die from prescription drug overdoses than from heroin or cocaine combined.

With the abuse of illegally-obtained prescription narcotics growing rapidly, I joined my colleagues in the Senate in approving several bills to curb the availability of black market prescription pain killers. The various legislation would:

- Place greater controls on Hydrocodone and Tramadol, highly addictive prescription pain medications ([S.5880A](#));
- Increase criminal penalties for physicians and pharmacists who illegally divert prescription drugs ([S.5260C](#));
- Criminalize the illegal sale of controlled substance by a practitioner or pharmacist to address practitioners operating “pill mills,” which fuel the black market for controlled substance medication ([S.6066](#)); and
- Criminalize the first-degree illegal sale of a controlled substance to a minor under the age of 14 ([S.3210B](#))

Too many young lives are being lost to prescription overdoses, and too many serious crimes are being committed to obtain pain killers. It is time to update our laws to prevent more tragedies from happening and punish those who illegally make these drugs available.

All bills were sent to the Assembly.

Senator Alesi Joins Foodlink’s “Abundance Shared” Monthly Radio Show



Foodlink's "Abundance Shared" Radio Show to air on WYSL's 1040 AM

I am pleased to join [Foodlink](#) Executive Director and Founder, Tom Ferraro, and Chief Operating Officer, Jeanette Batiste, for Foodlink's "Abundance Shared" monthly radio show to discuss funding secured through the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council. The show will air on [WYSL](#) 1040 AM tomorrow, Thursday, February 16th, from 6:30 until 7:30 pm.

The Regional Councils have allowed for local leaders in business and academia to have direct input into how the local economy is shaped – applying their expertise to our region. For years Foodlink has been an invaluable asset in the Rochester community and this funding can continue their remarkable track record of job creation, training and services offered to area organizations and residents.

In December, I [announced](#) that the Finger Lakes Region had been awarded \$68.8 million for economic development projects including \$50,000 for Foodlink in training initiatives for 24 unemployed Rochester-area individuals in Value Added Processing to prepare them for a career in the food processing industry. A podcast of the radio show is available via WYSL's website, <http://archives.warpradio.com/wysl/podcast.asp?id=44>.

Domestic Violence Consortium's 13th Annual Legislative Forum

I was honored to speak at SUNY Brockport on Saturday at the Rochester/Monroe County Domestic Violence Consortium's 13th Annual Legislative Breakfast on Domestic Violence. The forum included an overview of the 2011 domestic violence legislation signed into law, as well as proposed legislation for the 2012 Legislative Session.

The forum emphasized the need for enhanced protections for victims of domestic violence. As this Legislative Session continues, I will again support legislation that stresses zero tolerance for domestic violence.

The Rochester/Monroe County Domestic Violence Consortium (DVC) represents more than 50 organizations in the field of domestic violence.

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