

THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK



**ROBERT G. ORTT**  
SENATOR, 62<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT

September 12, 2018

**ALBANY OFFICE:**  
815 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247  
(518) 455-2024  
FAX: (518) 426-6987

**DISTRICT OFFICE:**  
175 WALNUT STREET, SUITE 6  
LOCKPORT, NEW YORK 14094  
(716) 434-0680  
FAX: (716) 434-3297

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MENTAL HEALTH AND  
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

**CO-CHAIRMAN**  
TASK FORCE ON WORKFORCE DEVELOPEMENT

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**MEMBER**  
HEROIN TASK FORCE  
SENATE MAJORITY TASK FORCE ON  
COUNTERTERRORISM AND PUBLIC PROTECTION

New York State Department of Labor  
Commissioner Roberta Reardon  
W.A. Harriman Campus, Building 12  
Albany, NY 12240

Dear Commissioner Reardon:

Empowering New Yorkers to obtain respectable, well-paying jobs has been a priority of mine throughout my time in the Senate. One way I've fought to do that is by supporting organizations like the Genesee, Livingston, Orleans, and Wyoming counties' Workforce Development Board (GLOW WDB), which trains workers and connects them to gainful employment.

However, the GLOW WDB has run into many bureaucratic roadblocks that hinder its ability to serve the people of the GLOW region. The WDB has respectfully communicated its concerns to you and to other lawmakers in the region. However, these concerns have gone unaddressed.

In order to find solutions to these real-world problems that are affecting residents of my district, I have been trying to speak to you for weeks, but multiple phone calls and emails from my office have been ignored. This conduct is wholly unacceptable.

Transparency and accountability are fundamental pillars of a healthy democracy. When an unelected agency head will not respond to a sitting state senator, that agency is not being transparent nor accountable; it is hiding and abdicating its responsibility to the people of New York.

The GLOW WDB's concerns are legitimate and deserve to be addressed. The WDB plays a tremendous role in our Western New York economy, and also serves as a great model for the Governor's "shared services" push by spreading resources among four counties. This organization should be celebrated and provided with all necessary assistance by your department, but this has not been the case. By ignoring my many attempts to speak, your agency has become unresponsive to the needs of communities it is supposed to serve.

It is my expectation that this conduct will change. I still look forward to speaking with you to address the concerns of the people of Genesee, Livingston, Orleans, and Wyoming counties. Please call my office at (716) 434-0680 to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert G. Ort". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "R" and a circular flourish at the end.

Robert G. Ort  
Senator, 62<sup>nd</sup> District

CC: Governor Andrew Cuomo  
Assemblyman Angelo Morinello  
Assemblyman Michael Norris  
GLOW Workforce Development Board

RGO:jmv