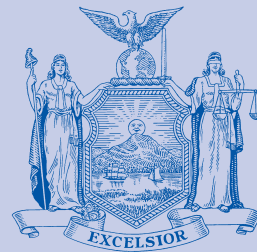




Assemblymember  
**DAN QUART**  
*Reports to the People*

Spring 2014



## PROTECTING YOUR RIGHT TO SEE THE DOCTOR YOU CHOOSE

New York State's health benefit exchange has been a success. Nearly a million applications have been received and more than 650,000 New Yorkers have enrolled in new health insurance plans since the exchange opened in October 2013. Despite these accomplishments, there are still improvements that can be made to the new system.

In particular, many of my constituents are concerned about a lack of options for out-of-network coverage. Out-of-network refers to services that are not included as part of an insurance company's plan, even if those services are necessary for treatment. Without these additional coverage options, patients are responsible for 100% of the cost of the treatment. Currently, no insurance companies are offering out-of-network coverage in plans that are offered in New

York City. Without out-of-network coverage, many of the newly insured will be restricted in choosing providers. In particular, some procedures are only performed by specialists who are not included in any insurance networks, leaving patients on the hook for the entire cost of these procedures.

I recently commented on the Department of Health's proposal, urging the department to require insurance companies to offer plans on the Exchange that include out-of-network benefits. This is an important change to the health benefit exchange that will ensure New Yorkers' continuing access to the providers of their choice. I strongly support this plan and will continue to fight in Albany to protect your right to see the doctor you choose.

## ASSEMBLYMEMBER QUART DIRECTS STATE DOLLARS TO LOCAL CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

I am proud to have directed capital funds to some of the city's most essential arts and cultural organizations. In 2013, I secured a total of \$600,000 for the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the 92nd Street Y and the Park Avenue Armory.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art is the largest museum in the country, and can boast a world-class collection, an iconic façade, as well as a brand new public plaza. The Met creates a space for art where all New Yorkers are welcome. To preserve their unparalleled collection, the Met is replacing old, inefficient HVAC equipment with new, state-of-the-art, energy-efficient equipment to improve their air handling and protect their precious collection for many more years to come.

The 92nd Street Y is a beloved institution in our neighborhood that produces enriching cultural events for the entire city. The 92Y

has partnered with public schools for many years, offering arts education and after-school programming. The 92Y's HVAC project will increase energy efficiency, improving their facilities, while also contributing to better air quality in our neighborhood.

The Park Avenue Armory is a newer gem on the Upper East Side. In the few short years it has been open, the Armory has quickly been recognized as a venue for some of the most innovative large-scale art in the city. As the Armory works tirelessly to restore their historic building, these capital dollars will go to the creation of an entirely new mechanical plant on the 5th floor, which will improve HVAC functioning and elevator access.

I will continue to work in Albany to secure capital funding for critical infrastructure upgrades to our treasured cultural institutions.

## A LOOK AHEAD AT THE 2014 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

As always, I am looking forward to another productive legislative session up in Albany. Last year, I was proud to vote for the full Women's Equality Agenda, another on-time budget, stronger gun-control laws and an extension of the critical co-op and condominium property tax abatement.

This year, I continue to work to improve the air quality in our neighborhoods. I am proud to announce that I have secured \$15 million in the Assembly's budget for a loan program for building owners who convert their boilers from those that burn highly-emissive heating oils to those that are less polluting. These funds will make a serious impact on heating-based pollution in neighborhoods across the city, especially the Upper East Side and Midtown Manhattan. I will be working closely with the Governor and my colleagues in the Senate to ensure that this funding is included in the enacted budget. I will also be working to pass my legislation that will ensure that all natural gas sold in New York State is free of dangerous levels of radon, ensuring that our indoor air quality matches our outdoor air quality.

I will also continue the fight for comprehensive property tax reform. Despite seventeen years of requests from the State Legislature, New York City administrations have failed to develop a plan to overhaul our property tax system and increase equity, particularly for renters and co-op and condominium

owners. A new mayor offers a new opportunity to finally reform our property tax system. I look forward to partnering with the mayor to achieve this important goal. At the same time, I will continue to work to pass my legislation increasing the transparency in our property tax system.



*Assemblymember Quart in the Assembly chamber.*

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## ASSEMBLYMEMBER QUART HONORS LOCAL COMMUNITY LEADERS AT KNICKERBOCKER PLAZA

Knickerbocker Plaza has been an important community center for many of us in the Yorkville neighborhood for years. The reopening of the Senior Center in 2007 was an important step toward providing a wide variety of services to the seniors in our neighborhood. The real heroes of Knickerbocker Plaza are, of course, the volunteers, staff and leaders who have made the Senior Center such a significant community resource. I was delighted to be able to present awards and proclamations to a few of those community leaders at the Knickerbocker Plaza Senior Center's Valentine's Day Luncheon.

It was my privilege to honor Rita Popper, Ed Maynard and Carol McCabe with legislative proclamations honoring their long time commitment to their community. Rita Popper has been president of the Knickerbocker Tenants Association since 2000. During her fourteen years of service to her neighbors, she has fought to protect the tenants at Knickerbocker Plaza. Most recently, Rita has led efforts by tenants across the city to advocate

for their rights in the face of federal sequester-based cuts by the Department of Housing Preservation and Development.

Ed Maynard and Carol McCabe serve as co-directors of the senior center. For many years, the Senior Center withered, leaving seniors in the neighborhood with no place to gather and build a community.

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*Assemblymember Quart with Knickerbocker Tenants Association President Rita Popper and Knickerbocker Senior Center co-directors Carol McCabe and Ed Maynard.*



*Assemblymember*

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*Assemblymember  
Quart with  
Knickerbocker Senior  
Center volunteers Flora  
and Violetta Torres.*



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Ed and Carol reopened the Center in 2007 with a renewed spirit of vigor, implementing a variety of programming for seniors in the surrounding community. Carol's painting and cooking classes and the computer literacy programming that Ed designed have brought neighborhood seniors back to the Center, turning a formerly stagnant location into a vibrant place for neighborhood seniors to learn, commune, and most importantly, eat together!