



Assemblymember
Ellen Jaffee
Assembly District 97

Dear Friends,



As a new legislative session begins, we have the opportunity to tackle the challenges facing our state. Among my priorities are working to make sure East Ramapo students get a quality education, childcare is affordable and subsidies are equitable, and that New York's educational system will once again be the envy of the nation. Last year, the Assembly Majority led the way on women's equality, investing in education and making life more affordable for hard working families. Now, we must work together to create more opportunities so that everyone has a fair shot at success.

~Ellen~

Leading by Example

These past few weeks we have lost three key members of our community - Dr. Willie Bryant, Patricia Simmons and Brenda Atkins. Their lives were characterized by community activism, public service, and a deep commitment to social, political and economic justice. I am honored and humbled to have worked closely with them. They will be greatly missed but they will always be remembered for their vision, dedication and exceptional leadership. On behalf of the many people whose lives they touched and the community they served, I salute them.

Pat Simmons, Dr. Bryant and Brenda Atkins



State of the State and Governor's Budget

Governor Cuomo put forth a [comprehensive set of proposals](#) to provide equal economic opportunities for all New Yorkers, create jobs, strengthen the State's vital infrastructure, and secure New York's reputation as a progressive national leader. I am encouraged that the Governor has pledged to restore economic justice in the state, aggressively addressing income inequality, poverty, homelessness, and lifting up struggling families by enacting a \$15 minimum wage and 12 weeks of paid family leave. I have been outspoken about many of these issues and we in the Assembly have passed similar legislation for years. Now is the time for the full Legislature to come together, take action and get the job of good government done.

Full-day Kindergarten for All



I stood with my colleagues to request funding in this year's budget for the nine New York State school districts that still don't have [full-day kindergarten](#) including East Ramapo and North Rockland.

Remembering the Haiti Earthquake



Six years after the catastrophic 7.0 magnitude earthquake hit the beautiful island of Haiti (January 12, 2012) the Assembly paused for a moment of silence and held a resolution to remember the countless lives that were lost and the families that were shattered. We must continue our efforts to help Haiti rebuild.

Hopper Citation of Merit is Law

The Governor signed into law my bill to establish **The Edward Hopper Citation of Merit for Visual Artists**. Recognizing a contemporary visual artist for his or her outstanding contribution to the arts in New York State honors not only the artist but also the enormous influence of [Edward Hopper](#), New York's native son and the "most-admired American artist around the world." Thanks to the Governor, [The Edward Hopper House Art Center](#) and everyone who partnered with me to make sure the arts flourish in Nyack and across the state. To learn more click [here](#)



YMCA Youth and Government

Panel

I was so impressed with our next generation of leaders that I met last weekend. The YMCA Youth and Government is a national program involving thousands of teens in forty state programs all across the nation. The New York State YMCA Youth and Government program provides high school teens at Nyack, Pearl River and North Rockland high schools.



"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." ~M.L.K., Jr.

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