



News from John McDonald

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

[*Sextortion Legislation*](#)

I was happy to see Governor Cuomo has added the topic of sextortion to his State of the State priorities, which will be delivered on January 3rd.

Sextortion refers to the act of sexual exploitation in which abuse of power is the means of coercion. This can also involve sexual exploitation in which threatened release of sexual images or information is the means of coercion.

Too many young women and men have been living a life of fear as a former friend, partner or companion has taken to using this method to extort them.

As always, criminalizing an item will be a lengthy discussion, but it is time to send the message that sextortion is a crime. I am hopeful this reminds us that with today's technology and social media there is no longer an expectation of privacy.

Read the full press release about the proposal [here](#).

[Addiction Treatment Community Budget Ask](#)

With the state budget tight this year the "ask" in [this article, written by Claire Hughes of the Times Union](#), from the addiction treatment community may be perceived by some as a bit much.

With that being said, as I have stressed for the last four years, drug addiction is a disease just like diabetes and hypertension. The only way we can get a hold on this disease is to dedicate appropriate resources to patient care. I look forward to this discussion in the upcoming budget session.

DISTRICT NEWS

[My Brother's and Sister's Keeper Graduation](#)



It was an honor to attend and speak at the City of Albany's My Brother's and Sister's Keeper graduation ceremony for these great young men and women.

They all have a bright future to look forward to. Congratulations to all!

[Catholic Central High School Visit](#)



The Catholic Central High School student government class was in to visit this past week at the State Capitol and I was honored to have them join me as we conducted session and discussed the issues at hand and how state government works.

[Albany Pine Bush Winter Break Programs](#)

The Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission will be offering several different programs at the Albany Pine Bush Discovery Center during the upcoming school break, December 26-30, 2017.

For a full calendar of the events being offered please visit <https://www.albanypinebush.org/events/calendar.cfm>. Some of these programs do require pre-registration. To contact The Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission you can also call 518-456-0655.

IN THE NEWS

[School Bus Drivers to Administer Epi-Pens](#)

Check out [this piece by Morgan Mckay](#) of News10 in regard to a new law that will allow school bus drivers to administer Epi-Pens. I was pleased to support this legislation with my colleagues.

The law will help us provide full access to Epi-Pens for children from the moment they start their day.