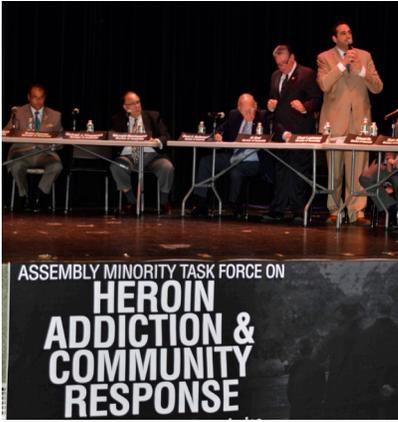


# New York State Assembly Legislative Update

From

# Michael Montesano

## 2016 Session Wrap Up



### Combating the Heroin Epidemic

After a year spent working alongside local stakeholders in all areas of New York, we have adopted comprehensive measures to address the heroin and opioid abuse that

has plagued our state. They will increase prevention and education, and expand treatment options and insurance accessibility to those who need it most. To reduce unnecessary access to opioids, the limit for initial opioid prescriptions for acute pain from 30 days to no more than a 7-day supply, with exceptions for chronic pain and other conditions. I hope that these new laws will provide help to individuals working to overcome addiction, while also preventing others from feeling the heartbreak too many families have already experienced

### Victory for our Veterans

The Veterans Equality Act has finally been signed into law! This law will correct unfair requirements currently in place, and ensure all of New York's veterans are provided with the benefits they have honorably earned. Eligible veterans enrolled in New York State's public employee retirement

system can buy back up to three years of state pension service credit. Under current law, veterans are eligible to purchase pension credits if they served only in certain conflicts, including World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War, or were actually deployed into a combat zone for later conflicts.



### Delivering for Our Schools

All New York students, teachers, and school districts deserve access to a world-class education. This year we were able to deliver record school aid, increased Foundation Aid by \$626 million and fully restored irresponsible

cuts to education funds made in 2010. Securing this funding will help New York return to the forefront of our nation's educational systems, as well as provide greater opportunities for students to explore in and out of the classroom.



### Addressing Corruption in the Capitol

I am proud that we were able to pass an ethics plan that includes a step toward long-awaited pension forfeiture for corrupt politicians, as well as independent expenditure reform, political consultant and lobbying disclosure, and issue advocacy

reforms. Additionally, after years of leading the fight to shed light on our proceedings, we have enacted a litany of rules reform changes that aim to increase transparency, accountability and openness within the Assembly. I am hopeful that next year we finally adopt measures that impose term limits for legislative leaders and committee chairs and close the LLC loophole. In order to dilute absolute power in state government and the influence of money in politics, it is critical to address these issues.

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If you have a comment, question or concern regarding local and state issues, please send an email, "like" my Facebook page and follow me on twitter!

### Other Notable Successes:

- Required school districts & BOCES to test for lead in their water supplies, state aid provided if necessary to ensure students are safe;
- Implemented a \$4.2 billion middle-class income tax cut; and
- Adopted a measure requiring the state to reimburse counties for the cost of legal services for the impoverished.

### Moving Forward We Must:

- Provide additional assistance to small businesses or effective reform for burdensome regulations;
- Implement across the board mandate relief for localities, school districts, and homeowners; and
- Help middle class families and students by adopting long-term college cost assistance and increasing the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP).