

Assemblymember Harvey Epstein



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Dear Neighbor,

What a historic first month back in Albany. We have had huge wins this month and this week was no exception. I am also excited to announce that I have been named as the the chair of the subcommittee on Retention of Homeownership and Stabilization of Affordable Housing. I look forward to using this subcommittee to highlight the crisis of affordable housing and work towards making our state and district more affordable for New Yorkers at a variety of income levels.

See you around the district,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harvey Epstein", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Harvey

The Child Victims Act

This week I co-sponsored and helped to pass the Child Victims Act to allow more victims of childhood sexual abuse to face their abusers in a court of law (A.2683). The bill extends the civil and criminal statutes of limitations, as well as institutes a one-year “look-back window” during which past victims will be able to seek justice in court. The Assembly has fought hard for this measure, and with the unanimous passage in Senate, the legislation is finally set to become law.

Childhood sexual abuse is an indescribably traumatizing experience that can take a lifetime to come to terms with. In many cases, it can take many years for a survivor to be ready to confront their abuser. While we cannot erase what happened, we can give power to victims and help them move forward with their lives without letting the perpetrators of these unthinkable crimes off the hook.

Gun Reform



This week we took on gun control and focused on a variety of changes to extend waiting periods, prohibit the sale of bump stocks and implement extreme risk protection orders, also known as “red flag laws.” Red flag laws create a process for law enforcement to temporarily seize or block the sale of guns to individuals that courts have deemed a danger to themselves or others. The red flag law we passed yesterday is particularly meaningful for me. Unfortunately, without these red flag laws my family experienced a trauma that could have been prevented. My spouse Anita and I were working with her brother who had a substance abuse problem. He was in and out of rehabs and we worked with him with tough love to help him get on a clean path. His life began to spiral down. His spouse needed to leave him because of the decline and moved into Anita’s mom’s house. If we could have red flagged him, we would have. However, the laws were not in place to protect our family. Her brother went into a store, legally purchased a gun, went to her mom’s house, shot his wife and then killed himself. If we had the red flag laws, he would not have been able to purchase a gun legally and maybe, just maybe we could have prevented this tragedy. For some it is too late. But now, families like ours will have another tool that can help to avoid such a tragedy in the future. I was proud to co sponsor this bill and many others on this important day.

The Assembly is Going Green

One of the first things I noticed when I got to Albany last year was the use of plastic at Assembly meetings and events. I went to senior administrative staff to move the Assembly to a Greener Approach. I am happy to announce as of this month, the Assembly is using compostable bowls and silverware. This is just one small step that we all need to do move ourselves to a greener world and I was happy to spearhead the effect.

In the News

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