



91st Assembly District
Larchmont - Mamaroneck - New Rochelle - Port Chester - Rye Brook and Rye



June 21, 2023

Dear Friends,

This newsletter comes as we are approaching the completion of the regular legislative session.

One of my most interesting bills this year is the legislation detailed below on the importance of making AED equipment available in youth sports settings. As the nation learned with the saving of the life of Damar Hamlin of the Buffalo Bills in January, victims of Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) require immediate assistance to maximize the chance of survival.

Also discussed below is legislation ensuring that high schools offer participation in student government as part of their program and news of a recent Green Technology event I sponsored in Albany.

In the past week I participated in numerous Juneteenth events throughout the Sound Shore. Now a national holiday, Juneteenth combines a celebration of freedom, a reminder of where our nation has fallen short and an important lesson in American history. The history lesson is especially timely given the efforts in some states prohibiting and punishing the teaching of the history of slavery, the banning of books, and increasing the threats to teachers and academic freedom.

I also took part in a panel discussion in Mamaroneck on the serious flooding issues that continue to face the village as we await the upcoming start of the Army Corps of Engineers Project flood mitigation project.

As always, do not hesitate to contact my office if we can be of assistance at 914-939-7028.

Warm regards,

Legislation Requiring Automated External Defibrillator Implementation Plans for Camps and Youth Sports

Legislation I sponsored with Senator Shelley Mayer to address a major gap in first aid protection for youth sports programs has passed both houses of the legislature. Our bill ([A.366A/S.7424](#)) will require camps and youth sports programs to adopt a plan to provide automated external defibrillator (AED) equipment at camps and youth sports games and practices.

The legislation is designed to address the issue of sudden cardiac arrest, the leading cause of death for young people. Sudden cardiac arrest has a 90% fatality rate, but those outcomes can be improved when CPR and AED response occurs within three minutes of the episode. But this equipment is often not always available. While AED equipment is already required in school buildings, this legislation applies to non-school settings. It is estimated that between 7,000 and 14,000 youth sudden cardiac arrests occur nationwide each year.

There is a tremendous gap in the public's understanding of the need for including AED equipment and protocols as part of standard youth sports first aid planning. We have the ability to prevent heart-breaking tragedies by making sure that camps and youth sports programs develop their own plans to make sure AED equipment and procedures are in place.

This measure will require that every camp or youth sports program establish and submit an AED implementation plan to the Department of Health, which describes how AEDs will be made available at every camp, game, or practice and how at least one employee, volunteer, coach, or other qualified adult, who has completed an AED training course, will be present. By ensuring that AEDs are available in camps, in gyms, and on the fields, lives will be saved.

The issue was brought to our attention by Rye Brook residents Dana Colasante and Alice Schoen, whose family members experienced sudden cardiac arrest at youth sports events. Dana's husband and Alice's son were both saved because AED equipment was present and used immediately. Most families are not as fortunate.

Dana Colasante and Alice Schoen formed an advocacy group, Saving Active Hearts, to educate the youth sports community about sudden cardiac arrest and what steps groups can take to have the necessary equipment and protocols

available. They were instrumental in the creation and passage of this bill that helps further their mission to protect young athletes from dying from sudden cardiac arrest.

The issue gained new attention with Damar Hamlin's near-death experience in January during the Buffalo Bills/Cincinnati Bengals game. The goal of our legislative efforts is to have this equipment available at all youth sports games and practices. Even in school settings, the awareness of the availability of equipment that is already on-site needs to be improved.

The American Heart Association (AHA) reported in 2018 that there are more than 356,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests annually in the United States, nearly 90 percent of which are fatal. Death can result within minutes from cardiac arrest if proper steps, such as performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and using an automated external defibrillator (AED) to shock the heart and restore a normal heart rhythm are not taken immediately. Data from 2019 shows that 38.3% of cases are witnessed by a layperson and 12.7% by an EMS provider. Trained non-medical personnel can use AEDs, which are simplified and portable electronic medical devices to treat a person in cardiac arrest using voice prompts, lights, and text messages to walk the responder through the steps. Sports-related SCAs account for 39% of SCAs in children ages 18 years old or younger.

Legislation Passed Requiring Schools to Provide Student Government Opportunities in High School

Legislation I sponsored along with Senator Shelley Mayer, would require school districts to provide students with the opportunity to participate in student government while in high school. The bill ([S.1732/A.6091](#)) passed both the Senate and Assembly overwhelmingly, with bi-partisan support in both houses. This legislation will require the board of education or trustees of every public school district serving students in grades nine through twelve to establish at least one student government organization in the district or school building.

This legislation will enhance the high school student experience, give young people a voice in school governance, and help build habits of civic participation. For many high school students, student government is their first experience participating in democracy, and serving as a voter, advocate, or elected leader. Students can gain real life skills by participating in student government and learn hands-on how government functions and how they can shape their communities.

Participating in student government prepares students to be active citizens in their communities throughout their lives. [Research has found](#) that students who directly participate in school governance programs have higher rates of academic success and civic engagement in adulthood.

Democracy is not just a form of government; it also requires the learned skills of deliberation, cooperation, compromise, and the ability to listen carefully and respect the views of others. One place we learn these skills is through student government where participants learn to engage with each other and with the school administration. Senator Mayer and I know the importance of these skills in our work in state government. This legislation will ensure that the opportunity for these important civics lessons are available in every high school throughout the state.

Juneteenth In New Rochelle



On Monday, I joined organizers, local officials, and others celebrating Juneteenth in New Rochelle, one of the many events I attended throughout the Sound Shore. Led by Linda Tarrant-Reid and her husband Stuart, New Rochelle has more

Juneteenth events, held throughout June, than any other community in New York State.

Technology Showcase in Albany



In May I hosted a Green Transition Technology Showcase in the Legislative Office Building. I am pictured here with Christine Hoffer, Executive Director of NY-Geo. The event featured information from vendors and advocates to educate legislators, staff, and the public about the geothermal technology available to heat and cool homes, schools, offices, and other commercial applications. Through the use of heat pumps and geothermal wells, this growing industry will be able to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels. NY-Geo, an organization of geothermal

engineers, contractors, manufacturers, and industry stakeholders helped organize the event. The vendors included Aztec Geothermal, CHA Companies, and Dandelion Geothermal. The advocacy community was represented by Climate Now, Renewable Heat Now, and NYers for Clean Energy.

New York Blood Center Enterprises Groundbreaking for New Campus



I was very excited to participate in the ground-breaking for New York Blood Center's new campus at the intersection of I-95 and I-287 at the border of the City of Rye and Port Chester. New York Blood Center has a national reputation for excellence in serving patients, hospitals, researchers, academia, and biomedical companies with their wide-ranging services and skill in scientific innovation. The new campus is perfectly situated to serve the tri-state area, while also bringing their dynamic programs together at one location. The New York Blood Center's role will grow even larger with the benefit of the new campus. The event was hosted by President and CEO Dr. Christopher D. Hillyer, MD, whose vision for the campus will bring their mission for innovation in serving patients and institutions to new levels. The choice of Westchester for their new home is a major win for our region. I was joined at the event by Dr. Hillyer, local officials, staff of the property owner, George Comfort and Sons and a large contingent from the Blood Center.

Mamaroneck Business Leaders Meeting In Industrial Zone



I joined in an interesting discussion on Mamaroneck flooding issues with the Mamaroneck Industrial Area and Business Coalition, commercial property owners in the village's most flood prone area. State Senator Shelley Mayer, County Legislator Catherine Parker and I discussed our respective work to support the village's efforts at the state and county levels. Senator Mayer and I were able to include the state's \$17.5 million share of the Army Corps of Engineer project in the recently adopted state budget. Westchester County has provided their funding as well. Senator Mayer and I have worked closely with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation on their expanded role in helping local governments move ahead with flood mitigation projects throughout Westchester County. In Mamaroneck, we have a special interest in the needs of businesses.

