

Important Phone Numbers

Sullivan County:

Assemblywoman
Aileen Gunther845-794-5807
SC Office for the Aging.....845-807-0241
SC Sheriff's Department845-794-7100
SC District Attorney845-794-3344
SC Veterans Service Agency.....845-807-0233
SC Emergency Management845-807-0508

Orange County:

Assemblywoman
Aileen Gunther845-342-9304
OC Office for the Aging845-615-3700
OC Sheriff's Department845-291-4033
OC District Attorney845-291-2050
OC Veterans Service Agency845-291-2470
OC Emergency Management ...845-615-0479

NYS Elder Abuse Hotline.....844-697-3505
NYS Office of Victim Services..800-247-8035
NYS Senior Consumer
Information Line.....800-503-9000
NYS Public Service
Commission.....800-342-3377
NYS Attorney General
Poughkeepsie Office845-485-3900
Elderly Pharmaceutical
Insurance Coverage (EPIC)800-332-3742
Monticello Social
Security Office855-794-4728
Do Not Call Registry888-382-1222
Mid-Hudson Better
Business Bureau Office914-333-0550
Free Annual Credit Report.....877-322-8228

New York State Assembly, Albany, NY 12248



Important information from...
Assemblywoman Aileen M. Gunther

A Message From...

Assemblywoman Aileen M. Gunther



Dear Friends,

As winter approaches and a new legislative session begins, I want to share some of my 2017 Legislative accomplishments.

- Increase in wages for direct care workers who provide care for the needs of our most vulnerable.
- Increase in educational funding for students, teachers, and important programs such as Universal Pre-K and cyber bullying prevention.
- Increase in benefits for our volunteer firefighters diagnosed with cancer related to their service.
- Reciprocity for out-of-state volunteer firefighters who visit New York and offer assistance in our communities.
- Ongoing attention to address the opioid and addiction crisis within our community.



Assemblywoman Gunther at a rally after passage of the bill to expand cancer coverage for volunteer firefighters.

It is my distinct honor and pleasure to represent you in Albany. If I ever can provide any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to call or stop by my office. My door is always open.

Your neighbor,

Aileen Gunther

Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther
100th Assembly District

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16 James Street, 3rd Floor, Middletown, NY 10940 • 845-342-9304
gunthera@nyassembly.gov

Frank Doolittle, a Hero to Us All

Meeting Firefighter Frank Doolittle was an honor for me. He is battling cancer that could be related to his service. This year I passed legislation to help provide financial assistance to volunteer firefighters with cancer related to a documented exposure. Governor Cuomo signed the bill into law on October 22. Previously firefighters only could receive up to \$600 per month for a limited time. With the new legislation, injured firefighters will have access to lump-sum payments of either \$6,250 or \$25,000, depending on the severity of the diagnosis. Also it will create a 36-month, \$1,500 monthly benefit for disabled firefighters. Our brave volunteer firefighters who keep our communities safe deserve these benefits.



Fighting the Opioid Crisis

It has been called one of the most perilous epidemics in the United States. Overdoses have quadrupled since 1999. Every day over 90 Americans die of an overdose. As a community we must work together to combat addiction.

I sponsored bill A.387B which would require chain pharmacies to offer take-back methods available to their customers. This will help ensure less prescription medications are left unused in our homes.

This bill passed both houses of the legislature but is still waiting for Governor Cuomo's signature.

Addiction does not discriminate. Be aware of signs and symptoms and reach out to a professional or my office if you need help.

- Education is the key to addressing addiction and overdose.
- Never leave opioids unsecured.
- Discard unused opioids and medications at a police station or at a pharmacy that allows for prescription take-back.

Fighting for Local Schools

Nothing is more critical to our future than the education of our children. This year's New York State Education budget includes:

- \$1 Billion Total Increase in Education Aid
- \$25.7 Billion Total Education Spending
- \$700 Million Increase in Foundation Aid
- \$17.2 Billion Total Foundation Aid

The budget puts millions of dollars toward universal pre-K programs, after school programs, advanced placement programs, and cyber bullying prevention programs. Also we funded the Master Teachers Program and the Excellence in Teaching Awards in order to support and celebrate the educators who help to shape our children's lives.



Aileen speaking with students from Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine in the Assembly Chambers.

Mental Health Awareness

Nobody feels ashamed when they break a bone or get a cold, and the same should hold true with mental health. As chair of the Assembly's Committee on Mental Hygiene, I work each day to increase awareness and combat this stigma. My legislation A.06216B, which created a specialty license plate that reads "Healthy Mind, Healthy N.Y." does just that.

The Governor has signed this bill into law, and more information on the new license plates will be available soon.

HEALTHY MIND, HEALTHY NY



Raises for Direct Support Professionals

I always have been in awe of the tireless care of our Direct Support Professionals. They work selflessly to ensure that people with developmental disabilities gain their independence and offer security for the families who depend on them.

Unfortunately, low wages have caused many Direct Support Professionals to seek other job opportunities. To help address this problem, the Assembly fought to make sure that the final state budget included \$55 million to fund a living wage initiative.

I was able to secure a 3.25% raise for these workers on January 1, 2018, and another 3.25% raise on April 1, 2018. I am proud of this hard won development in the state budget.