



Assemblymember  
**John T. McDonald III**  
Assembly District 108

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## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

[\*Diabetes Management Devices Not Authorized for Sale\*](#)

**This FDA warning** supports legislation I recently introduced to hold pharmacies and suppliers responsible for dispensing the proper product. Sadly, there is a black market out there where diabetes test strips and other glucose monitoring items are either bought from patients or other unauthorized distributors and has the potential to have questionable and possibly inaccurate results.

**The bill** requires pharmacies to buy products only from authorized distributors and for manufacturers to designate to the Education Department those designated distributors.

I am working to pass this bill this legislative session as patients with diabetes are heavily reliant on these items to maintain a daily life and manage their disease.

## **DISTRICT NEWS**

[\*Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month\*](#)



I was happy to have this group of advocates in the Chamber on Monday to recognize a resolution declaring May as Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month.

Cystic fibrosis is a life-threatening genetic disease that affects the lungs & makes it hard to breathe. This disease affects more than 30,000 children and adults in the U.S. and 70,000 people

worldwide.

While there is still no cure for CF advancements in treatment have made it possible for those with the disease to live much longer than ever before. However, they live under the risk of infection and health problems due to CF.

For Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month, let's celebrate progress both made and imminent!

Thank you to Assemblyman Billy Jones for being the sponsor of this resolution.

### [Free Civil Service Exams to Recent Albany High School Grads](#)

Albany Common Council Members recently passed a measure that would waive the fee for civil service exams up to two times for city residents who have graduated in the last two years.

For more information take a few moments to read [this Times Union article](#) from Amanda Fries.

### [Mental Health First Aid](#)

The Mental Health Association in New York State, Inc. (MHANYS) was awarded a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Capital Region Project AWARE Grant. This grant focuses on increasing awareness, care, and support that the General Public receives for behavioral health challenges.

In doing so MHANYS' is providing free Mental Health First Aid training to individuals who work with or support the General Public within Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, and Schenectady counties. Mental Health First Aid is often referred to as CPR for the mind; it's an evidence-based training that introduces participants to risk factors and warning signs of mental illness along with a 3-year certification from the National Council for Behavioral Health.

For more information or to register visit their [website here](#)

## IN THE NEWS

### [Tax Return Legislation](#)

Take a few moments to check out [this Times Union](#) article by Chris Churchill and [my blog post](#) to see my comments on the recent tax return bill voted on in the Legislature.