

Budget season is upon us again this March and I have been extremely busy working with the Governor and my colleagues to advance a budget that will invest in our mental health system, provide record funding for our public schools, and fund various local projects.

While working on the budget, I have also introduced several pieces of legislation. This month I am focused on passing bills covering diverse issues such as robocalls, long term care policy rates, and New York residents' access to public information.

Additionally, on March 17, from noon to 5 p.m., I am hosting my second annual blood drive for the Red Cross at the Niskayuna Town Hall in partnership with Niskayuna Town Supervisor Jaime Puccioni. If you are interested in participating, please call 1-800-733-2767 or visit the Red Cross Web site and enter sponsor code assemblymemberphilsteck (one word).

I'm always happy to hear from you. If you have questions or concerns about anything I've mentioned in this letter or any other issues, contact my office at SteckP@nyassembly.gov or by calling 518-455-5931.

All the best,
Phil Steck

Legislative Updates

Two months into the 2023 legislation, I am working hard to make New York State better for you. Below are some of the current bills that I have filed and refiled this month.

- Refiled a bill that will expand the number of members of the public service commission from five to seven (A.4405)
- Refiled a bill to require that long term care policy rate increases are capped at 33% in a three-year period (A.4442)
- Reintroduced legislation to authorize certain facilities to provide treatment for the mental health and health care needs of individuals admitted for a substance use disorder (A.4543)
- Filed a bill increasing the rights of civilians to have access to government records and meetings without undue burden (A.4429)
- Filed legislation preventing any telecommunication company from contracting with New York State unless they provide free automated call-blocking technology to customers to prevent robocalls (A.4371) Check out the below video for more information.



ASSEMBLY UPDATE

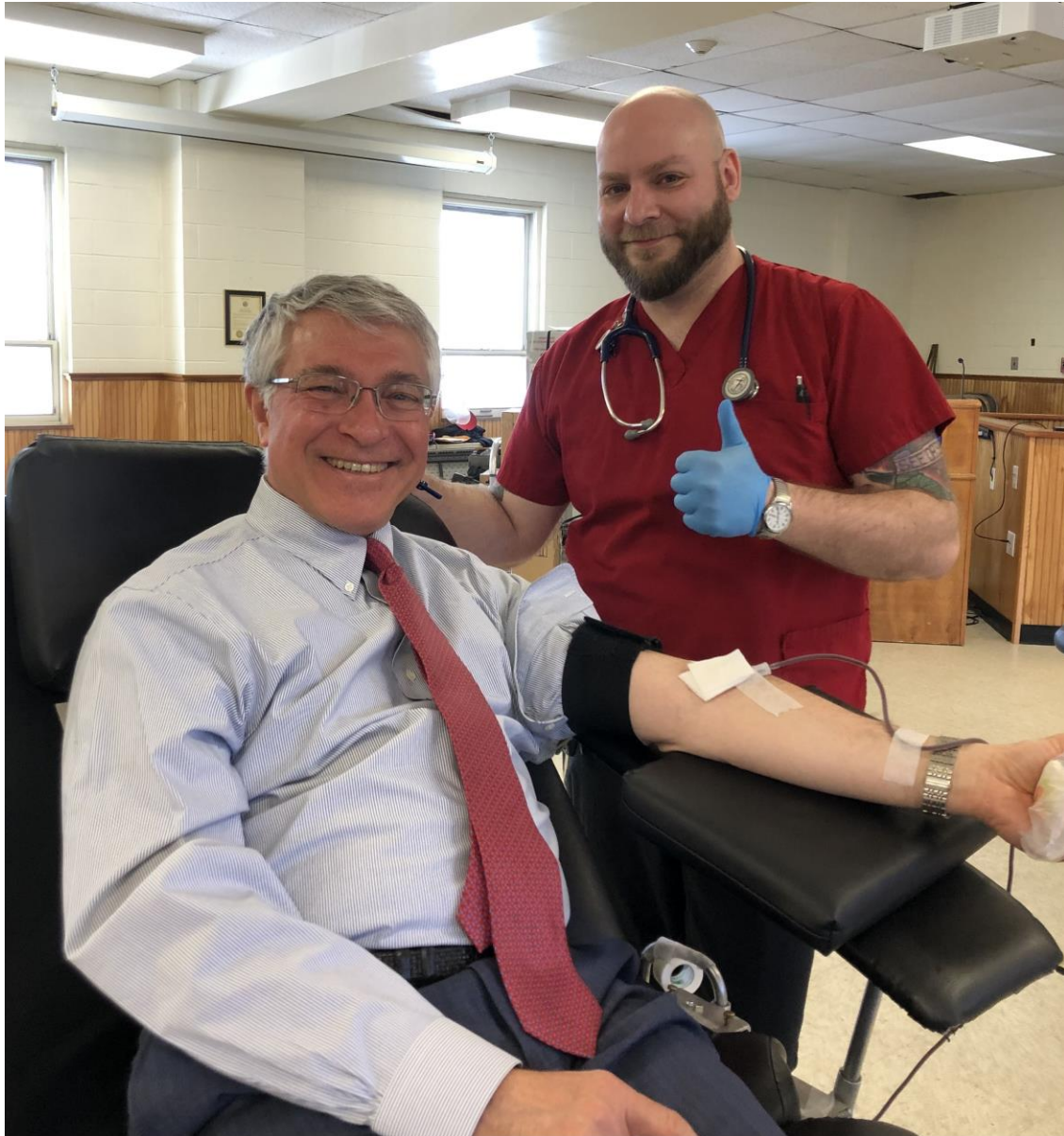
Assemblymember Phil Steck
110th District

Assemblymember Steck discusses his legislation to protect New Yorker's from predatory and illegal robocalls (A04371).

In the Community

Second Annual Blood Drive

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Championing a Minimum Wage Increase

I met with the Raise Up New York Coalition to showcase my support for a \$21.25 minimum wage that keeps up with rising costs. The bill would give 2.9 million New Yorkers a \$3,300 raise to help cover essential expenses like rent, groceries, and part-time childcare.



Preventing Youth Smoking

On Feb. 7, I discussed the prevention of youth smoking and improving the health of our community with Capital District Tobacco-Free Communities. As the chair of the Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Committee, I am always looking for ways to improve the health of my constituents through community action and legislation.



Supporting Local Libraries

On March 1, I spoke with advocates from the Upper Hudson Library System to discuss how vital NYS funding for capital projects and library systems is to our libraries.



Tips & Information

Tax Assistance in Colonie

The Town of Colonie Senior Resources Department provides free tax preparation to seniors. The program is available by appointment only. Call Carrie Blanchard at 518-459-3977 to schedule or visit www.colonie.org/departments/seniors/ for more information.

Tax Assistance in Schenectady

The city of Schenectady has free tax preparation assistance sites. [Click here](#) for a complete list of locations and phone numbers for each.

Tax Assistance in Guilderland

The Town of Guilderland provides free tax preparation to seniors over 50 years old.

- You must make an appointment with availability on Mondays, February 6-April 10.
- Dial 211 for the United Way call center to speak with staff who can schedule a tax appointment for you or [click here](#) for more information.

Tax Savings and Credits

Various Tax savings and credits are available for working families through the expanded Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit. Visit www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/individuals/child-tax-credit or www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/individuals/earned-income-tax-credit-eitc to learn more.

B'nai B'rith Capital Area Holocaust Essay Contest

Attention Capital Region middle school and high school students. The annual B'nai B'rith Capital Area Holocaust Essay Contest is accepting submissions from now until April 20. Visit their Web site for full contest information and resources about the Holocaust. Six cash prizes will be awarded, and winning students will be recognized at a ceremony on June 7.



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