



Dear Friends,

I am pleased to report that the governor has been signing bills that the Legislature passed this last session.

One of the most important is the \$230 million opioid settlement that the Attorney General reached with Johnson and Johnson. A condition of NYS to receive this money was the passage and signing of legislation to create a special fund earmarked for opioid prevention, treatment, education, and other forms of abatement. I am proud to have led the Senate in the passage of this bill so that the funds we receive will go to the communities and agencies that will help end this crisis, and not just get lost in the general fund.

Just this week, two bills we led in the Senate to decrease gun violence also became law. One would make it illegal to purchase a firearm while knowing that there is an outstanding warrant out for your arrest on a serious offense or felony. It would also ensure that those selling or gifting firearms to people while knowing that they have such a warrant are held accountable as well.

The second is the first-of-its-kind in the nation and would allow sellers, manufacturers, importers, or marketers of guns to be held liable for a “public nuisance,” defined as actions that harm the public. This legislation builds on previous bills we passed to try to limit the sale of guns to keep our communities safe.

Other legislation that has passed and recently been signed into law, are the Gender Recognition Act to reduce discrimination toward those who change their name or sex designation, and legislation enabling small businesses and not-for-profit organizations to get more low-cost power through the New York Power Authority’s “ReCharge NY” program. For more information, click [here](#).

With the ending of the school year, I want to congratulate all our students who worked so hard in this most difficult year. It wasn’t easy for them (or for parents or teachers), and they came out of it stronger and smarter.

Each year I ask the schools—public and private—in the district to give me the names of those graduating from high school, elementary school and yes, even kindergarten. Forty-Three schools responded, and I was happy to send congratulatory certificates to 3,895 students.

*Local utilities are concerned there could be outages if there is a bad storm tomorrow. They want to remind their customers how to reach them:*  
**Optimum** (Altice) customers can sign up to receive service alerts and updates on service restoration via text or voice message by going

to <https://www.optimum.net/profile/#/comm-pref>. You can also call them at 866-950-3278

**Fios** (Verizon) customers should call 1-800 VERIZON (837-4966) to report an outage. This is important as it will then go into their restoration system.

**Con Ed** customers should call 1-800 75-CONED (752-6633), or visit the Con Edison website here: <https://www.coned.com/en/services-and-outages/report-track-service-issue/report-outage-status>. You can also sign up for text alerts: <https://www.coned.com/en/services-and-outages/text-alerts>.

**NYSEG** customers should call 1-800 572-1131.

These e-blasts are my way of giving you timely news about state government and to get your feedback. As a result, we hear from constituents who need assistance from various governmental agencies and from those who have more local concerns. Some offer their opinions on legislation. This is very helpful to me in representing you.

As I travel around the district, I hope to meet and talk with many of you personally. Of course, you can always reach my office by email [scousins@nysenate.gov](mailto:scousins@nysenate.gov) or by phone at 914-423-4031.

Until next time,



Andrea Stewart-Cousins  
New York State Senator, 35th District  
President Pro Tem, Majority Leader



**COMMUNITY FIRST**





### *Yonkers Greenway Art*

The City of Yonkers along with community partners Groundwork Hudson Valley and Community Engagement Through the Arts unveiled a new public exhibit by local artist Haifa Bint-Kadi. The Yonkers Greenway is a 2.4 mile walking and biking trail, and the installation is one of five works of art that will be featured.



### *SNUG Visit*

Back in 2010, I secured \$250,000 to create the SNUG program at the YMCA in Yonkers, part of a state-wide anti-gang and anti-gun initiative. Today SNUG (which is GUNS spelled backward) is 11 years old and is working with law enforcement and anti-violence community groups to steer at-risk New Yorkers away from a culture of violence.



*Burke Rehabilitation Hospital Ribbon Cutting for Alice B. Harmon Patient Welcome Center*

Burke Rehabilitation Hospital in White Plains, part of the Montefiore Health System, has opened its new \$2.4 million Alice B. Harmon Patient Welcome Center to make it easier for patients to go through the admissions process. I was happy to be part of the event with other elected officials, former Congresswoman Nita Lowey, Montefiore President, CEO Dr. Philip O. Ozuah and Burke President and CEO Jeffrey Menkes.



*First Baptist Church of White Plains 150th Anniversary*

The First Baptist Church has been a pillar of the White Plains community since 1871. I was there to celebrate their 150th Anniversary with a special proclamation. What an amazing milestone!

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