



Assemblyman

**Steve Otis**



91st Assembly District

Larchmont - Mamaroneck - New Rochelle - Port Chester - Rye Brook and Rye

February 14, 2023

Dear Friends,

The state budget process is in full swing, and last week my schedule included budget hearings beginning in the morning and often continuing well into the evening.

Monday: Transportation

Tuesday: Public Protection

Wednesday: Education

Thursday: Economic Development and Arts

Friday: Westchester Assembly Delegation Local Budget Forum

Hearing participation is based upon committee assignments and the schedule provided me a full week to hear testimony and raise issues of concern to Westchester and all New Yorkers. Governor Hochul released her [2023-24 budget proposal](#) on February 1st. The hearings, which include testimony from agency heads, issue specialists, and the advocacy community, provide guidance for the Legislature on what is in the budget proposal and on areas in which we can try and improve the budget through the negotiation process.

I have included a few clips of some questions I raised this week. Included are themes that remain priorities for me, such as promoting Digital Inclusion and Digital Equity programs, special act school district finances, EV charging infrastructure, cybersecurity needs of local governments and school districts.

Also included in this newsletter is an NBC News4 New York Investigative Report of the availability AED equipment at youth sports events. AED equipment saves lives in cases of Sudden Cardiac Arrest. Last year I introduced legislation on this important issue that gained new attention with Damar Hamlin's near-death experience in January during the Buffalo Bills – Cincinnati Bengals game. NBC correspondent John Chandler did a great job of explaining the issue. I am working on several fronts with Alice Schoen and Dana Colasante, founders of the group

[“Saving Active Hearts”](#), to improve AED equipment availability, training and accessibility in youth sports. Their advocacy was featured in story.

I hope you find this information of interest. You can obtain documents on the governor’s budget proposal [HERE](#) or on the full state budget hearing schedule [HERE](#). I serve as chair of the Assembly Committee on Science and Technology and am a member of the Education Committee and the Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions, which were featured in the past week’s hearings. This upcoming week I will participate in state budget hearings on environmental conservation and on local governments.

I hope you find news on these issues of interest. Please contact me on any issue that I can be of assistance. My District Office number is 914-939-7028.

Warm regards,



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**Otis Questions Transportation Commissioner During Joint Legislative Budget Hearing**



Last Monday I asked Marie Therese Dominguez, Commissioner, New York State Department of Transportation during a joint legislative budget hearing on transportation on the investments being made for EV charging stations and necessary infrastructure across the state. View the clip [HERE](#).

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## Budget Hearing on Economic Development



Assemblyman Otis questions OGS Commissioner Jeanette Moy on electric bus charging infrastructure assistance for school districts and Economic Development Commissioner Hope Knight and on expanding digital inclusion programs to better reach underserved populations. You can view the clip [HERE](#).

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## Assembly Education Budget Hearing



During last week's K-12 Education budget hearing in Albany, I focused my questions on digital inclusion programs, special act school districts and mental health funding in the schools to State Education Commissioner Betty Rosa. You can view a question I asked the NYSED Commissioner, Betty Rosa [HERE](#)

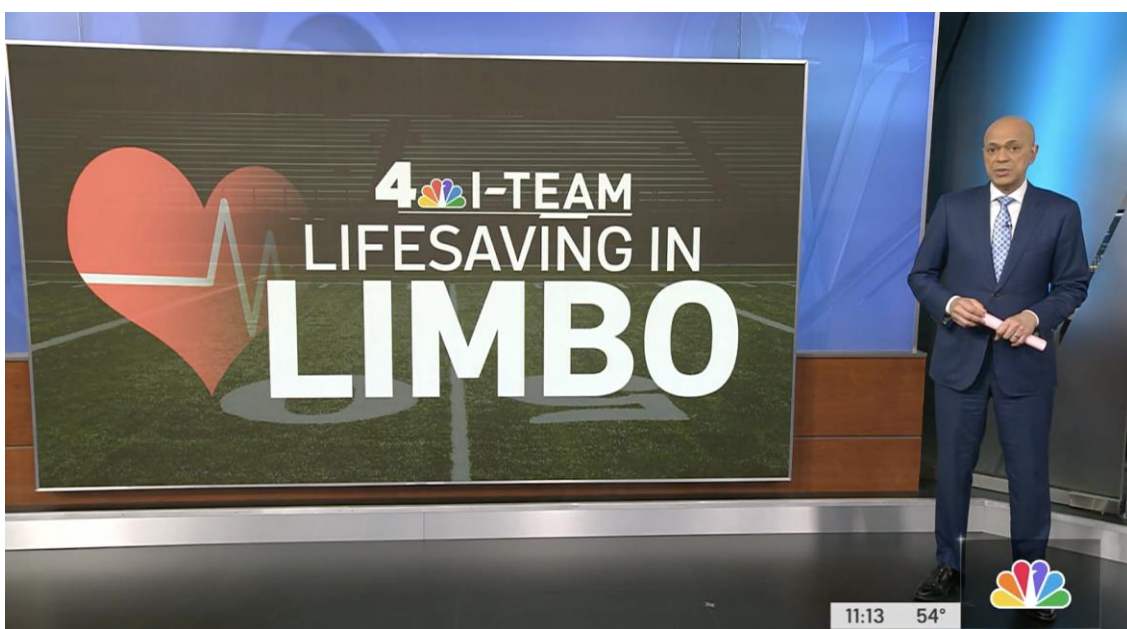
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## Assembly Westchester Delegation Budget Forum



At our Friday Assembly Westchester State Delegation Budget Forum we heard from over 70 Westchester residents, local officials, not-for-profit leaders and community advocates on specific state budget issues of concern in the state budget. The annual Westchester budget forum is very important in making sure our delegation has the specific issues and budget actions needed by Westchester organizations and families. The testimony and written comments help our advocacy in the state budget negotiation process. You can view the budget hearing on my Facebook page [HERE](#).

## Channel 4 Covers Important AED Legislation for Youth Sports



Recently, Channel 4 covered the important issue of sudden cardiac arrest and access to AED devices in youth sports and a related bill I am sponsoring with Senator Shelley Mayer.

You can view the new clip [HERE](#).



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