

Dear Friend,

As your trusted voice in Albany, my top priority is addressing the issues that matter most to our families. This past legislative session, I fought to put money back into New Yorkers' wallets and create safer neighborhoods that we can all be proud to call home. This newsletter provides information about the cost-saving measures included in this year's budget, as well as offers a closer look at the many bills I supported to help Mohawk Valley residents thrive. As always, please don't hesitate to contact my office with any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

Marianne Buttenschon



Marianne Buttenschon

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Assemblywoman Buttenschon champions important legislation

PROTECTING PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Buttenschon co-sponsored and passed the Adult Survivors Act, which **creates a one-year window for adult survivors of sexual offenses to bring civil claims that were previously time-barred by the former statute of limitations (Ch. 203 of 2022).**
- Buttenschon introduced and passed "Bianca's Law," which **criminalizes the unlawful dissemination of a personal image and creates a right of private action for such offenses.** This comes after graphic images of Bianca Devins and Caroline Wimmer, who were tragically murdered, were shared nationally over social media and aims to protect future families from the added suffering these actions cause **(A.1121-C).**
- To combat the theft of catalytic converters, Buttenschon sponsored and passed legislation **to regulate which scrap yards can buy catalytic converters, require catalytic converters to be marked with an etching and prohibit scrap yards from purchasing catalytic converters unless the items are duly authorized for sale without authorization from a generator (A.1940-E).**

- Buttenschon co-sponsored and passed legislation **to help employees in the restaurant and bar industry identify and assist victims of trafficking by requiring that human trafficking awareness trainings be included in alcohol training awareness programs (Ch. 392 of 2022).**
- Buttenschon co-sponsored and passed a bill that **establishes a "blue alert system" to aid in the identification, location and apprehension of individuals suspected of killing or seriously wounding any police officer to quickly get these dangerous individuals off our streets (A.6318-B).**

SUPPORTING MILITARY MEMBERS AND VETERANS:

- To show our appreciation and respect for the many heroic veterans who served our country, Buttenschon co-sponsored a law **to designate all of U.S. Route 20 in New York, which passes through the state from the Pennsylvania border to the Massachusetts border, as the "New York Medal of Honor Highway" (Ch. 381 of 2022).**

- To honor Korean War veterans, Buttenschon sponsored and passed a bill **designating a portion of State Route 365 in Oneida County as the “Oneida County Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway” (Ch. 452 of 2022).**
- Buttenschon introduced and passed a law that **requires the NYS Division of Military and Naval Affairs to provide information on benefits for members of the National Guard and their families in both printed form and on the division’s website to ensure these individuals can easily access the support they need (Ch. 483 of 2022).**
- To ensure brave veterans are not unfairly denied the benefits they’re owed, Buttenschon co-sponsored and passed a bill that **grants municipalities the authority to provide real property tax exemptions for certain Cold War veterans (A.7466).**
- Buttenschon co-sponsored and passed legislation **requiring employers with more than 50 workers to display a poster with information about veterans’ benefits and services (A.3913-B).**
- Buttenschon co-sponsored and passed a bill to better connect veterans to the services they need by **requiring the NYS Division of Veterans’ Services to provide a copy of a certificate of release or discharge from active duty (DD-214 form) to the appropriate local veterans’ service agency (A.1782).**

SECURING FUNDING AND PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT NEW YORK’S AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY:

- Many young farmers struggle with student loan debt. Buttenschon co-sponsored and passed legislation to help minimize this burden by **expanding eligibility for the New York State young farmer loan forgiveness incentive program, which, in turn, will allow the next generation of farmers to purchase the land and equipment they need to keep New York’s agricultural industry alive and well (A.1539).**



- Buttenschon co-sponsored and passed the New York Textile Act **to promote economic development programs that accelerate the growth of the animal and plant fiber growing, processing and textile manufacturing industry in New York, providing support to farmers and creating manufacturing jobs (A.9649-A).**

Assemblywoman Buttenschon helped pass the 2022–23 state budget which provides **\$52 million in funding for agriculture** – the largest amount in recent history – to support initiatives that provide local farmers with tax relief and offer research, marketing and financial assistance. The budget also includes:

- ✓ **\$5 million** for Meat Processing Expansion Grants to address the shortage of meat processing facilities
- ✓ **\$500,000** for Farmland for a New Generation, which matches farmers seeking land with landowners looking to keep their land in the farming industry
- ✓ **\$1.85 million** for New York Farm Viability Institute, an organization that provides funds for farmer-recommended agriculture research
- ✓ **\$8.7 million** for the Cornell Diagnostics Lab, which plays an important role in protecting New York’s livestock and food supply
- ✓ **\$700,000** for Farmers Market Resiliency Grants
- ✓ **\$5 million** for Country Fair Improvement Grants to support the revitalization of country fairs statewide

PROTECTING CONSUMERS:

- To improve transparency and equip homeowners with the information they need, Buttenschon co-sponsored and passed a bill that **requires homeowners be notified that they are not required to buy flood insurance that exceeds the outstanding amounts owed to the bank or covers content within the home (A.4424).**
- Companies that manufacture devices with voice recognition software, such as cell phones and televisions, may record a user’s voice without an individual’s consent. To prevent these companies from unlawfully profiting off these recordings, Buttenschon co-sponsored and passed a bill to **implement privacy regulations that regulate voice recognition features in Internet-connected devices (A.4855).**
- To minimize the amount of unwanted calls people receive, Buttenschon co-sponsored and passed legislation that **requires telemarketers to give customers the option to be added to their do-not-call list immediately after the telemarketer’s name and the person on whose behalf the solicitation is being made are provided (A.8319-C).**

AIDING AND PROTECTING VULNERABLE POPULATIONS:

- Society has come a long way in acknowledging the important role that mental health plays in our overall well-being. To bring our state constitution up to date with the current beliefs of New Yorkers, Buttenschon co-sponsored and passed a bill **to create parity between mental and physical health in the state constitution (A.5238).**
- Buttenschon co-sponsored and passed a bill **to establish a pilot program to create an assistance hotline for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and complex behavioral needs to help them access the services they need (A.7357-A).**
- People with disabilities often face unfair barriers to employment. That's why Buttenschon co-sponsored and passed legislation to combat this issue by **creating a tax credit for small businesses that hire people with disabilities, which will incentivize more businesses to employ these individuals who are far too often overlooked (A.3960-A).**
- To create more accessible housing options for seniors and individuals with mobility issues, Buttenschon co-sponsored and passed a bill **to create a tax credit for new or retrofitted principal residences that are universally designed to be accessible and adaptable housing (A.3409-A).**

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR UTILITIES:

- Many individuals rely on electricity to operate their medical equipment – which, in many cases, is responsible for keeping them healthy and alive. Buttenschon co-sponsored and passed legislation that **seeks to protect these individuals in the case of a power outage by defining which medical machines qualify as a necessity and requiring service providers' emergency response plans to include outreach plans for customers who have documented their need for essential electricity for medical equipment (A.3217-A).**
- Under current law, electric companies must have a plan to secure downed wires within 36 hours of being notified by a municipal emergency official. Buttenschon co-sponsored and passed a bill that **expands this measure to include individual citizens to the list of those who can report downed power lines and start the 36-hour timeframe (A.3245).**
- To improve storm response, Buttenschon co-sponsored and passed a law that **requires electric corporations' emergency response plans to include information on how communication and coordination of efforts between services will occur during an emergency (Ch. 395 of 2022).**

- Buttenschon co-sponsored and passed legislation that **requires electric corporations to prioritize restoring services to police departments, fire departments and ambulance services when electric services are interrupted to keep our communities safe (A.3318-C).**

EXPANDING HEALTH COVERAGE AND ACCESS TO CARE:

- To ensure individuals can access and afford the mental health services they need, Buttenschon co-sponsored and passed legislation that **requires blanket health insurance policies to provide coverage for outpatient treatment by licensed mental health providers (A.1171-A).**
- Buttenschon co-sponsored and passed legislation that would **establish the Office of Hospice and Palliative Care within the state Department of Health to ensure access to affordable, high-quality health services for individuals with serious or life-threatening illness (A.8881-A).**
- The Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) program assists seniors with the financial burden of prescription drug costs. Buttenschon co-sponsored and passed a bill to **ensure eligible seniors continue to qualify for the program if they receive an increase in a public or private pension or Social Security benefit (A.928-A).**
- Approximately 1 in 8 women in the U.S. will develop breast cancer over the course of their lives. To better support these individuals throughout their medical journeys, Buttenschon co-sponsored and passed a bill **to require insurance companies to cover and provide information on chest wall reconstruction surgery, in addition to breast reconstruction surgery, after a mastectomy or partial mastectomy (A.8537).**

¹ [breastcancer.org/facts-statistics](https://www.breastcancer.org/facts-statistics)



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PROMOTING EXPORT TRADE:

- To expand export trade among businesses of all sizes and create high-paying industrial jobs, Buttenschon sponsored and passed legislation that **authorizes Empire State Development to support export trade development projects that encourage businesses to engage in export trade regionally and globally (A.1177).**

Assemblywoman Buttenschon secures big budget wins

Assemblywoman Buttenschon passed a 2022-23 state budget that:

- ✓ **Creates one-year property tax rebate checks** for households that are eligible for School Tax Relief (STAR) and Enhanced STAR, and that have incomes at or below \$250,000
- ✓ **Suspends the state's gas tax** from June 1, 2022, through the end of the year to help New Yorkers save at the pump
- ✓ Accelerates the phase-in of **middle-class tax cuts**
- ✓ **Expanded the Child Tax Credit** and provided funding to help New Yorkers catch up on utility bills

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Look inside
to learn about
**Assemblywoman
Buttenschon's**
legislative
accomplishments

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"In the wake of a challenging couple of years,
I passed legislation and secured investments
to help Mohawk Valley families recover and
thrive for years to come."

Marianne Buttenschon