

ASSEMBLYMAN BILL MAGNARELLI

2014 PROGRESS REPORT

Dear Neighbor:

For the fourth consecutive year, the New York State Legislature approved an on-time state budget.

The 2014-15 State Budget included the highest level of school aid in State history. Over the last three years, our state budgets increased funding for education by \$2.9 billion. This year's budget adds an additional \$1.12 billion increase, bringing our education funding level to its highest ever.

We also passed high-quality, full-day Universal Pre-K and reformed the Common Core implementation deficiencies, testing requirements, and evaluations. I address this further in this Progress Report.

We continue our gains in managing the fiscal stability of New York State government. Recognized by all three financial rating agencies, Fitch raised NYS' credit rating to its highest level ever and Moody's upgraded our credit rating to its highest level since 1964.

This legislative session continued to build on the last three years of tax relief. Property tax relief includes a new \$1.5 billion program to provide direct tax relief to homeowners. Family tax relief credits and tax cuts for small businesses and manufacturers enacted in the 2014-15 State Budget ensure that New York will continue its growth by strengthening the economy.



I am equally proud of my record in protecting our seniors and honoring our Veterans with programs that help them lead a healthy and affordable life, filled with hope and opportunities.

My commitment remains steadfast to working hard and delivering results for all of my constituents. I believe that you elected me to get things done for the good of the people of New York.

I hope you take the time to read this 2014 Progress Report. We accomplished so much this past session!

Sincerely,

Bill Magnarelli
Member of Assembly



2014 PROGRESS REPORT



NY's largest investment in education ever!

- ✓ Increases school aid by \$1.12 billion, which will help take the burden off local taxpayers;
- ✓ Provides \$40 million to establish full-day Universal Pre-K;
- ✓ Makes college more affordable by increasing funding for the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) and community colleges; and
- ✓ Reforms Common Core by:
 - Banning standardized testing for Pre-K through grade 2
 - Protects students and teachers from unfair testing consequences by limiting the effects of these high-stakes tests
 - Creates the "Parents Bill of Rights" and safeguards private student data.

Helping to save lives, ease pain, increase awareness and promote prevention

- ✓ Passed legislation to address the growing heroin and opioid epidemic in NYS by:
 - Increasing awareness and prevention efforts
 - Ensuring that the lifesaving antidote naloxone is used safely and effectively
 - Increasing access to treatment programs
 - Strengthening state law to prevent the distribution of illegal drugs;
- ✓ Allowing seriously ill patients to use medical marijuana to treat debilitating and life-threatening illnesses;
- ✓ Monitoring the use of electronic cigarettes—known as e-cigarettes—and keeping addictive liquid nicotine out of the hands of New York's minors; and
- ✓ The State's official health plan marketplace, launched on October 1, 2013, completed applications for 1.5 million New Yorkers and enrolled 1.1 million for coverage. More than 80 percent of those who have enrolled to date were uninsured at the time of application. The approved rates for 2014 are 53 percent lower than what individuals would have paid last year.

Assemblyman Magnarelli's commitment to continue to re-evaluate the Common Core mission and its proper implementation on behalf of students, parents, and teachers:

"Earlier this year, I voted to delay the effects of high-stakes testing associated with the Common Core in order to address the poor rollout of new education standards. As students continue to adjust to the Common Core, it's important to remember that teachers are also adjusting and learning how to effectively implement the curriculum. It's essential that they are not penalized if they are legitimately trying to provide a good education to the best of their abilities."

"By taking the Common Core test results out of evaluations for two years, we can alleviate the burden our hardworking educators are experiencing and give these teachers ample opportunity to fit their instruction to the Common Core."

"Teacher evaluations have a place in our educational system. The legislation that passed both houses (A.10168 and S.7921) does not change that. If a teacher is still rated as ineffective or developing with the Common Core state test results taken out of the mix, there will be real consequences. The bottom line is we need to ensure our kids are receiving a quality education that prepares them to compete nationally and globally for the 21st century economy."



Delivering much-needed tax relief

- ✓ Continues the 2% property tax cap protecting homeowners;
- ✓ \$350 tax rebate checks for middle-class families with children;
- ✓ Cuts an energy tax on residents and businesses, saving \$600 million over 3 years;
- ✓ Cuts property taxes by \$1.5 billion over the next 3 years in the form of a rebate check for homeowners;
- ✓ Reduces New York's estate tax to ensure your estate goes to loved ones, not the tax collector;
- ✓ Corrected technicalities in the STAR property tax relief program that excluded farm dwellings; and
- ✓ Middle-class New Yorkers are now paying the lowest personal income tax rate since 1953.

Strengthening our State's economy, retaining jobs, and luring new businesses

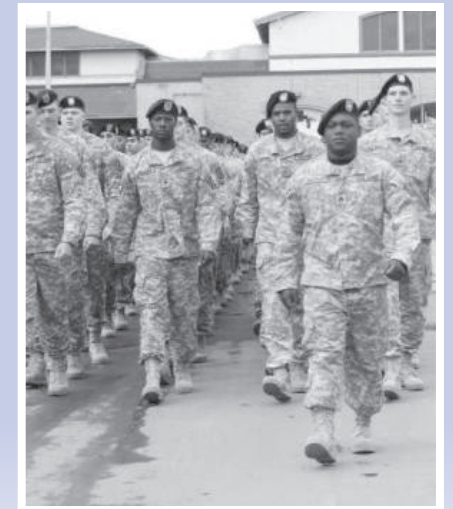


Building on the success of the Regional Economic Development Councils, up to \$750 million in economic development resources will be available to applicants through the 2014 REDC process;

- ✓ Empire State Development, the State's economic development agency, has approved incentive packages totaling more than \$1 billion and has secured pledges to create and retain approximately 194,000 jobs and to leverage over \$10 billion in private investment in the State;
- ✓ New York State has gained over 460,000 private sector jobs since January 2011. New York is the number two state in the nation in net new job creation since the recession;
- ✓ Simplified the tax code and reduced the net corporate income tax rate from 7.1% to 6.5%, the lowest corporate rate since 1968, helping to lure more out-of-state companies to New York; and
- ✓ Lowers manufacturers' income tax rate to zero and slashes their property taxes by 20% to spur new growth and jobs.

Helping Veterans get ahead and honoring the sacrifices they and their families have made for our state and country

- ✓ Co-sponsored the Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business Act which sets a 6% participation goal in the awarding of state contracts to service-disabled veteran-owned businesses;
- ✓ Passed legislation that helps support military families, making their frequent relocations as seamless as possible, which included:
 - The Interstate Compact on Education Opportunities for Military Children would ensure uniform treatment of military children transferring between school districts and states
 - Enabling veterans attending a community college, college, or university of the SUNY or CUNY systems under the GI bills to qualify for the in-state tuition rate
 - Allowing families of service members from New York, who were wounded in combat but died as a result of their wounds outside of the combat zone, to qualify for the supplemental burial allowance, helping to cover expensive funeral and burial costs
 - Making it possible for a military family member who holds an out-of-state license to qualify for a NYS license in certain occupations or professions that are licensed by the Department of State, such as real estate brokers, cosmetologists, or barbers.



Protecting our seniors and making their lives a little more affordable

- ✓ Continues the enhanced STAR property tax relief program for senior citizen homeowners;
- ✓ Expands eligibility for the Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) program to help lower the cost of prescription medications;
- ✓ Protects you from surprise medical bills if you are unknowingly treated by an out-of-network doctor; and
- ✓ Ensures that you won't lose your life savings if you have an ill spouse who needs long-term care.

2014 ASSEMBLY REPORT CARD

At the end of each legislative session, NYPIRG (New York Public Interest Research Group) issues a report and breakdown of legislative activities by Senate and Assembly members. This year, I am proud to announce that, according to the NYPIRG analysis, I ranked in a tie for number 2 among my Assembly colleagues for the most prime-sponsored bills that passed both houses. The next step is for these bills to be signed into law by Governor Cuomo. In the 2012 and 2013 legislative session, I was ranked first as the Assembly member who passed the most bills signed into law. So we will wait for the final tally after the Governor reviews the bills.

The importance of these rankings is that it indicates that I have the ability to work in a bipartisan manner, to compromise, when necessary, for the good of the people of New York State and to represent the constituents of my home district with hard work and results.



ASSEMBLYMAN
MAGNARELLI
working for you



**CNY Veterans
Parade and Expo**
Sat. Nov. 8, NYS Fairgrounds
Parade at noon;
Expo 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Come and Thank Our Troops!

The parade attracts more than 80 veteran organizations, active and reserve military groups, including a large contingent from Fort Drum, and high school marching bands from throughout the CNY area. The Expo is a display of organizations and companies that offer opportunities and information to veterans and soldiers, including a job fair.

CNY Volunteer Fair
Tues., Sept. 16
3 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Destiny USA



More than 50 non-profit and volunteer organizations will have representatives and information available highlighting opportunities for individuals to make a difference in our community.

For information on these events or if you have any questions or concerns, please contact Assemblyman Magnarelli's office at 428-9651, or email him at magnarw@assembly.state.ny.us