



Assemblymember

Ellen Jaffee

Assembly District 97

Dear Friends,



Thank you for the outpouring of sympathy over the passing of my husband, Steve Jaffee. Your kindness is a great comfort. Steve was committed to his family and to the Rockland community. As Steve would have wished, I have returned to Albany continuing the work he so strongly supported.

~Ellen~

African American History Month

Throughout the history of our nation, our state, and Rockland County, African Americans have struggled to break barriers. [African American History Month](#) is a time to honor the perseverance, strength, courage and accomplishments that continue to inspire and to remind us that the fight for equality and justice is not over. A multi-media event, sponsored by the [African American Historical Society](#), will take place at R.C.C. featuring live musical performances, [Wednesday, February 24, 2016](#).

Legislation Merges NY State and Federal Primaries

During the last presidential election cycle in 2012, the election calendar made voting more difficult and caused voter turnout to drop. With a presidential primary in April, federal primary in June, state primary in September and general election in November, the Assembly passed legislation ([A.9108](#)) to ensure state and federal primaries in the state are both held on the fourth Tuesday in June, streamlining the election calendar, saving taxpayers \$25 million and ensuring members of the military stationed overseas have ample time to vote.

Paid Family Leave Now

The Assembly again passed legislation ([A.3870-A](#)) I co-sponsored that would provide New York workers up to [12 weeks of paid family leave](#), cover two-thirds of the worker's salary and guarantee job security. I will continue to advocate for the Senate to pass this legislation that will help keep New York's families healthy and secure.

Assembly Passes Comprehensive Contraception Coverage Act

When there is well-timed access to contraceptives, women can make the best decisions for their own health and well-being. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) provides universal access to free contraception services. Unfortunately, some insurance companies have limited this access. The Comprehensive Contraception Coverage Act ([A.8135-B](#)) I co-sponsored codifies federal guidelines into state law, requiring insurance companies to include all FDA-approved contraceptive drugs, including men's contraceptives, in one's monthly premium with no co-pay. It also prohibits the review process some insurers use to delay and deny coverage.

Joint Budget Hearing on Mental Hygiene

At the Joint Budget Hearing on Mental Hygiene [I asked the Commissioner](#) of the NYS Office of Mental Health, Ann Marie T. Sullivan, how we are responding to the availability of mental health services for our children and youth given budget cuts and concerns about staffing, psychiatric support, and transportation for youth being transferred to local sites.

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