

Assemblymember

Ellen Jaffee

Assembly District 97

Dear Friends,



The horrific hate crime targeting the LGBTQ and Latino community in Orlando, the deadliest mass public shooting in modern American history, spotlighted – once again – the need to eliminate loopholes and strengthen our nation's gun laws. [New York's SAFE Act](#) was a significant first step in helping to reduce gun deaths and injuries, but we can and must do more. In the United States every day, dozens of people, many of them children and youth, die from gun-related violence. Congress as well as state governments can save lives by building on the SAFE Act, banning assault weapons and requiring background checks. As a longtime advocate for sensible gun laws, protecting the public's health and safety remains a top priority.

The [recent refusal of the Supreme Court](#) to hear a case that challenged the New York SAFE Act is strong confirmation that sensible firearms restrictions are constitutional. While those who oppose the SAFE Act continue to claim that *any* regulation of guns is an attack on personal liberty and Second Amendment rights, the Supreme Court and the vast majority of Americans disagree. There is a gun violence problem in America and we have a responsibility to fix it. We must move beyond "thoughts and prayers" to action.

~Ellen~

PS. Today's Supreme Court ruling for [Whole Women's Health](#) is a victory for women. You can read more about why I thought this ruling was essential [here](#).

East Ramapo Update



After working together for many years on many pieces of legislation with the advocates, parents, my colleagues and the State Education Department, I am pleased that [this legislation](#) passed both the Assembly and the Senate with bipartisan support. It is just a beginning. [There is no question](#) - much more work must be done.

Kidsnett Pre-School Graduation

As a strong advocate for high-quality, affordable childcare and the importance of early learning in closing the achievement gap, it was such a pleasure to be with the children and to see their excitement and growth. I am committed to ensuring all children have access to such wonderful early learning programs.



BOCES Project SEARCH Graduation

My warmest congratulations to the 40 graduates, their families and to the dedicated professionals at Rockland BOCES, Good Samaritan Hospital and the Rockland County Association for Learning Disabilities (RCALD) who have recognized and supported these students' abilities, talents, strengths and skills. Through this unique program and the variety of opportunities to work and learn they have begun an important and exciting journey.

Stripping Public Official's Pensions

I co-sponsored [\(A.7704\)](#) and the Assembly passed a resolution to amend the New York State Constitution that would strip the pensions of public officials convicted of a felony related to their official duties. Politicians who betray the public trust and use their office to line their own pockets shouldn't be rewarded with pension benefits paid for by taxpayers. For this amendment to become law, it must pass in both chambers again next legislative session. At that point, it will be placed on the ballot as a public referendum for voters to amend the New York State Constitution.

Suffern Farmers' Market 15th Anniversary

What a pleasure to celebrate the 15th Anniversary of the Suffern Farmers' Market with Village of Suffern Mayor Ed Markunas, Trustee Frank Hagen, Suffern Farmers' Market "founding mothers" Sarah Mondale and Debra Ballestra, Suffern Farmers' Market Board Members, Alex Evans, Lois Hagen and Cara Cea and all our residents, families and neighbors who enjoy and support the market, its wonderful variety of vendors and their wholesome products.



As a member of the Assembly Children and Families Committee, the Assembly Health Committee and former Chair of the Assembly Task Force on Food, Farm and Nutrition Policy, I have been determined to help ensure that *everyone*, especially those who are underserved, has access to nutritious, local food grown on farms right here in New York State.

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