



## SENATOR JIM ALESI



**Community Update: 08/29/12**

**Labor Day, Monday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Dear Neighbor,

This Monday – September 3<sup>rd</sup> – is Labor Day and while many of us are getting into the back-to-school routine, Monday should be a day to reflect on the historical significance of this national holiday. Labor Day is dedicated to the social and economic accomplishments of American workers – accomplishments New York State and our country have long benefitted from.

Today, many associate the holiday with family picnics and summer's last hurrah. This Labor Day, I encourage you and your family to turn your thoughts to the source of the holiday. The American worker – responsible for so much of the nation's strength, leadership, and freedom – deserves our tribute, especially on Labor Day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim".

### **Back-to-School Reminder: No State Sales Tax on Clothing Purchases Up to \$110**

Believe it or not, it is back-to-school time again! Preparing children for a new school year can be a fun and exciting time, but with the high cost of clothing, school supplies, and other educational costs, it can also be a challenging one. That is why I wanted to remind you of some good news that is sure to help your back-to-school budget. **Shoppers will not pay state sales tax on clothing purchases up to \$110.**

Clothing purchases can be a big part of a family budget, and I was pleased to support this tax cut to help hardworking, over-burdened taxpayers keep more money in their pockets. Repealing the sales tax on clothing is projected to save a typical family of four nearly \$200 a year.

In addition to the new [Middle Class Tax Cut Plan](#) that slashed income tax rates to their lowest levels in 58 years, and the new [Property Tax Cap](#) that is helping to curb runaway school property taxes, the clothing tax repeal is another way I am working to bring relief to hardworking New Yorkers. For more information about the repeal of the clothing sales tax, please click [here](#). As always, I wish all students returning to school and their families a safe and successful year of learning!

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## New Law Focuses on Prescription Drug Abuse



In communities all across our state, the abuse of prescription drugs has skyrocketed in recent years – destroying the lives, health, and well-being of far too many young New Yorkers. I am pleased to say that here in New York, we are fighting back to save lives, prevent tragedies, and help keep our kids safe.

On Monday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, Governor Cuomo announced that he signed into law an important [new measure](#) that will crack down on prescription drug abuse in New York State. Known as the Internet System for Tracking Over-Prescribing Act, or I-STOP, this landmark legislation includes the following provisions:

- It creates a modernized and improved real-time Prescription Monitoring Program that practitioners and pharmacists can securely and easily access, allowing them to view their patients' controlled substance histories;
- It requires e-prescribing, making New York a national leader by being one of the first states to move from paper prescriptions to a system mandating electronic prescribing; and
- It updates controlled substance schedules to align New York's Controlled Substances Act with Federal Law and changes the schedules for hydrocodone compounds and tramadol to reduce abuse.

In addition, the new law establishes a Safe Disposal Program to increase the options available to safely dispose of unused controlled substances and prevent people who abuse prescription painkillers from obtaining them from friends or relatives.

This is a public safety issue, and it is vital to ensure the health and well-being of all New Yorkers. The I-STOP prescription drug reform law will help make our state a national leader in curbing prescription drug abuse. Please click [here](#) for more information.

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