



SANDRA R. GALEF
Assemblywoman 95th District

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July 17, 2013

Mr. Manuel M. Vilar
President
Police Benevolent Association of New York State.
11 North Pearl Street, Suite 1200
Albany, NY 12207

Dear Mr. Vilar,

For the past few years, as we fought to prohibit smoking on public playgrounds, the youth of New York have been needlessly exposed to dangerous second-hand smoke and a deadly habit. Thanks to your expertise, assistance, and participation at press conferences, the Assembly and Senate finally passed legislation (A.4205/S.1643), which I sponsored, that prohibits smoking on public playgrounds where children under twelve are present, between the hours of sunrise and sunset. Last week, the governor signed this legislation into New York's Public Health Law (Chapter 102 of the Laws of New York). Now, parents need no longer worry that their children will breathe unclean air as they play on our public playgrounds.

This legislation marks a step forward in the fight against Big Tobacco, but we still have work to do. As you have supported my efforts to pass this legislation, I ask for your continued support in passing legislation that will curb youth smoking, diminish the incidence of exposure of non-smokers to second-hand smoke, and promote healthy communities. As you may know, I recently announced that I will be introducing legislation to prohibit the sale of tobacco near school zones. I hope that you will continue to counsel and advise me as I work to pass another piece of common-sense legislation that will significantly reduce youth smoking.

Once again, thank you for your support and I know that I can count on you to continue to support your local communities and New York State as we work to improve public health.

Sincerely,

Sandy Galef
Member of Assembly