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Senate Democrats' Newsletter

1 message

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To: NJSENDEMS <NJSENDEMS@njleg.org>



Sweeney Expresses Support for Fire Safety Legislation



Senate President **Steve Sweeney** expressed his support for legislation sponsored by Senator **Brian Stack** to establish fire safety standards and protocols for certain light-frame residential construction.

[You Can Watch the Video Here](#)

Forging a new path for sexual assault survivors

By **Sandra Cunningham**

Legislation I have sponsored, along with my colleague across the aisle, Senate Minority Leader Thomas Kean, Jr., S-778, would establish a Campus Sexual Assault Commission to evaluate emerging issues, policies, and practices concerning campus sexual assault and to then make policy recommendations for needed reforms. I have also sponsored a bill, S-779, with Senate President **Steve Sweeney**, that would require universities in the state to continue to follow the guidelines for handling sexual assault laid out by the Obama Administration, which Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos repealed. The bill addresses the procedures followed in response to allegations of sexual harassment, and ensures the process complies with the previous federal guidelines. It requires reports of sexual assault and sexual violence be investigated and adjudicated in a timely manner.

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We Can and Should Do More to Help our Veterans

Diegnan, Lagana School Bus Safety Bill Package Approved by Senate



A series of bills sponsored by Senators **Patrick Diegnan**, **Joseph Lagana**, **Vin Gopal**, and **Linda Greenstein** to

further encourage and foster a safe environment on New Jersey's school buses was approved by the Senate.

[You Can Watch The Video Here](#)

Sweeney Honored for His Commitment to Disabled Community



As part of their 30th anniversary celebration, Planned Lifetime Assistance Network of New Jersey honored Senate President **Steve Sweeney** for his commitment to the disabled community in the Garden State.

[You Can Watch the Video Here](#)

By Troy Singleton

Those who fought during World War I, Korea or in Vietnam were not shown the same level of respect they deserved. The First World War was a brutal conflict that was seen by some as a "European war." The Korean War was called the "forgotten war." And Vietnam was surrounded by domestic political conflicts. History should not diminish the sacrifices made by these soldiers and their families.

Recently, as a society, we have learned from those attitudes and we are more demonstrable in honoring our military members, including those who serve in Iraq and Afghanistan. We applaud them during sporting events. We tie yellow ribbons in their honor.

We make videos of them reuniting with their families go viral. However, our veterans face distinct issues when they return to civilian life. We can and should do more to help these men and women. Since I became chairman of the New Jersey Senate Military and Veterans Affairs Committee last spring, I have made this my priority.

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NJ Leaders Say Committee Vote on Marijuana Likely This Month

Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, a Democrat, spoke at the state League of Municipalities annual conference in Atlantic City. Democratic Senate President **Steve Sweeney** said afterward he also plans a committee vote this month.

It's the latest timeline on an issue that moved to the forefront when Democratic Gov. Phil Murphy took office in January.

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Officials Call for Answers After Snowstorm Wreaks Havoc on Transit Systems

By Leah Mishkin

Senate Majority Leader **Loretta Weinberg** got caught in the mess Thursday night at Newark Airport. She's been vocal about wanting the Port Authority to be moved or renovated to accommodate more people. Friday, just minutes after touched down at LAX, she sent a statement saying "I have been in touch with the Governor's Office and have requested an honest and public review by New Jersey Transit, as well as the Port Authority, on what occurred yesterday and what processes need immediate correction to avoid a repeat."

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